



THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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ROKO SHOW: DUO PROVE WORTH IN FINAL MATCH OF OZ SERIES

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli wound back the clock with a match-winning 2nd-wicket partnership to help India win against Australia. After an iffy start in Perth, Rohit has grown into the series. After a streaky 50 in Adelaide, he was at his best notching up his 33rd ODI 100 in trademark fashion. While Rohit played the aggressor, Kohli was equally solid during his unbeaten 74 | **P13**

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India waits for clear US signals on how Russian oil curbs will play out

Trade pact talks stay the course; need more clarity on crude oil sanctions, say officials

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

AS trade pact negotiations gain traction, India is pressing for a fair deal and clearer signals from Washington on sanctions related to Russian oil. In a key meeting India's Ambassador to the US, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, met US Deputy Secretary of Energy James Danly to review the India-US energy security partnership and recent trends in bilateral energy trade.

Sources said the talks also touched on how impending US sanctions could affect global oil flows, even as supplies remain stable. "These are early days and we need more clarity on the sanctions — that's part of the ongoing conversation with the US. Our energy security is paramount and guided by market conditions, national interests, and domestic



Kwatra meets Lockheed CEO

Ambassador Kwatra also met Lockheed Martin CEO Jim Taiclet and had a 'productive' discussion on bilateral defence industrial collaboration and opportunities under India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative



Had a fruitful discussion with Deputy Secretary James Danly on the energy security partnership

—Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Indian envoy to the US

underscores the lack of a uniform Western approach to Russian oil sanctions. Meanwhile, the Trump administration's renewed sanctions on Moscow are being viewed as a pressure tactic as well.

Sources said a Russia-Ukraine ceasefire would represent the best-case scenario for India, potentially paving the way for lifting the additional 25% tariff on Russian crude imposed by the US.

With fears of secondary sanctions looming, India's imports of Russian oil are expected to come down gradually, a shift that could push New Delhi to source more energy from the US as well.

Sources believe this diversification would help offset tariff pressures and strengthen the foundation for an energy-focused component in the trade pact.



requirements," a source familiar with the issue said.

India's attention is on US sanctions against Rosneft and Lukoil, which supply most of its Russian oil, and the possible

ripple effects of secondary sanctions. The fine-print is awaited.

Germany recently took temporary control of three Rosneft subsidiaries to secure its own energy supplies—a move that

SATISH SHAH
DIES AT 74



The veteran actor's breakthrough role in the iconic *Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro* made him a household name. He was suffering from kidney ailments for a while | **P9**

WOMEN'S TEAM Oz cricketers stalked, one molested in Indore

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

IN a shocking incident, two Australian women's cricket team members were allegedly stalked and sexually harassed by a motorcycle-borne man in Indore on Thursday. The incident took place in broad daylight, 11 am to be precise, when the two players were walking from the Radisson Blu hotel (where the team was staying since October 17) to a popular café close by.

The accused stalked the two players who were jogging to the café from the hotel. He followed the cricketers and first tried to grab one of them and drove off. Later, he came from behind again and molested the other woman cricketer. A case was registered on the complaint of the team's security manager Danny Simmons at Indore's MIG police station on October 23 night. The accused, identified as Aqeel Khan, was arrested the next day and booked for stalking and outraging a woman's modesty, under BNS Sections 74 and 78.

This was confirmed by additional DCP (ADCP-Crime) Rajesh Dandotiya who added that it was done based on the complaint filed by the Australian team management's security in-charge Danny Simmons,



The accused at the police station after the arrest | **EXPRESS**

about "inappropriate behaviour" with the team's players. "Intensive strategic operation was carried out by multiple teams of five police stations, resulting in the tracing and arrest of the accused within six hours of lodging of the case," Dandotiya told *TNIE*. The arrested man has been accused in ten cases of theft, robbery, drug peddling and attempt to murder from 2012 to 2024.

The incident took place a day after the Aussies beat England. The Indian cricket board (BCCI) condemned the incident. **P13**

Litterbugs, watch out! Waste will be dumped at your doorstep soon

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

LITTERBUGS, watch out. A load of garbage will be dumped right in front of your homes if you continue to throw garbage on roadsides and other non-designated spots creating eyesores across the city. After exploring multiple options to stop indiscriminate disposal of garbage, which is chipping away at the image Brand Bengaluru, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) now wants to teach a fit lesson to such litterers. Marshals first record videos of those dumping garbage and then trace their residences. Soon, a load of garbage will land at their doorsteps.

The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) has been creating awareness, carrying out massive drives and slapping fines on litterbugs to reduce black spots, but the menace has not stopped. This latest solution will make litterbugs feel how it is to have a load of garbage right at their doorsteps. Also, dumping of garbage will be videographed and shared on social media to name and shame such litterbugs, officials said.

"Recording of videos of litterbugs indiscriminately dumping mixed waste in plastic carry bags, gunny bags and boxes is already on for the last one week. Marshals, along with ward engineers and jurisdictional police will also reach their homes and dump garbage at their doorsteps," said a senior official. **CONTINUED ON: P5**

WITH THIS ISSUE

STAR TREK
PLUS 12 PAGES
MAGAZINE

Mobile phone cargo in bus may have spread fire

Kurnool: Crucial details have emerged in the probe into Friday's Kurnool bus fire which claimed 19 lives. The investigation revealed that the bus was carrying a consignment of 234 brand new mobile phones beneath the rear seats. The lithium-ion batteries of the mobile phones exploded due to extreme heat, intensifying the fire | **P7**

Techie held for Maharashtra doctor rape, cop on the run

Mumbai: Police on Saturday arrested a software engineer in connection with the 26-year-old woman doctor's suicide case in Maharashtra's Satara district, while the main accused, suspended police sub-inspector Gopal Badane, is absconding. Prashant Bankar, son of the woman doctor's landlord, was arrested from Pune, police said | **P10**

Reliance, Facebook to invest ₹885 cr in AI venture

New Delhi: Meta Platforms, Inc.'s Facebook Overseas will hold 30% interest in the AI venture floated by Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd. Reliance Intelligence will hold the remaining 70% in Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Ltd. Reliance Intelligence, a wholly-owned subsidiary of RIL, and Facebook will jointly invest an initial amount of ₹855 crore | **P12**



Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka



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and
5 Bengaluru City Corporations



Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister &
Minister for Bengaluru City Development
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Chief Commissioner
Greater Bengaluru Authority



THESE LARGE BIRDS ARE OFTEN SIGHTED IN THE BACKYARDS OF HOUSES AND IN SMALL PLANTATIONS ON UDUPI'S OUTSKIRTS

PRAKASH SAMAGA @ Udupi

MALABAR pied hornbills, endemic to the Western Ghats, are now being spotted frequently in Udupi city and its outskirts and in parts of Kundapur taluk. They are often seen in the backyards of houses in Udupi city and in small plantations at Vadderahobali, Koni and Basroor villages in Kundapur taluk.

With their heavy, slightly curved yellowish beaks and prominent casques, these striking birds (locally known as Mangatte) thrive in the evergreen tracts that stay damp with steady leaf-fall and rain. They can also be seen along river fronts, according to local birders.

In the wild, they eat fruits, insects and small animals. But now, according to villagers, these visitors peck at tender coconuts and arecanuts, an unusual behaviour. Bird lovers attribute this to lack of food.

"With human interventions increasing in the Western Ghats, Malabar pied hornbills could be venturing into urban areas in search of food," said Ganesh, a wildlife photographer.

Some residents have shared pictures of these birds eating fruits grown in their gardens, Ganesh said.

"This species is largely associated with evergreen forests. But now they are being spotted in towns and cities, mainly from August onwards. Earlier, one had to travel to Dandeli to see hornbills," Prof Laxminarayan Upadhyaya, an ornithologist, said.

Conservationists point to two reasons for these sightings -- shrinking forest patches and planting of more fruit-bearing saplings in urban areas. This combination might be drawing 'Mangatte' closer to people. For residents, close encounters with hornbills are a rare privilege, but they should remember that these birds should not be disturbed during their breeding season, the birders said.

Early mornings in Udupi and Kundapur have now become a bit noisier because of shrill whistles, cackles, clucks and raucous screams of hornbills, and people rush to balconies or backyards to have a glimpse of them.

Malabar pied hornbill is endemic to the Western

Udupi, now home to hornbills



Malabar pied hornbills in Udupi

Ghats and protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, alongside its larger cousin, Great Pied Hornbill. That highest level of legal protection is not ornamental. It speaks volumes about this species' dependence on big trees and forests.

They mainly eat fruits and choose natural tree cavities for nesting. After laying eggs, the female seals herself inside with a mud plaster, leaving only a narrow slit. Through that slit, the male passes food for weeks until the chicks are ready. For this ritual to happen, the nesting area should be calm and quiet, Prof Upadhyaya said.

A large bill with a black base and a yellow and black casque, and red eyes with dark blue bare skin around them are the unique features of a male Malabar pied hornbill. The female's bill and casque are smaller and its eyes have white skin around them. Both have black plumage with white bellies and white patches on their wings.

This species is largely found in evergreen forests. But now they are being spotted in towns and cities near the Western Ghats. Earlier, one had to travel to Dandeli to see the hornbills

—Prof Laxminarayan Upadhyaya, ornithologist



ABHIJIT N KOLPE @ Mangaluru

AT 68, Madhav Saripalla, an autorickshaw driver from Mangaluru, still pursues his passion for marathons. Despite a demanding profession and a challenging personal life, he has participated in over 100 marathons, becoming an inspiration to many in the port city.

Madhav, who started driving autos in 1985, can be found at the auto stand in Mallikatte Kadri. He took to marathon running after his son Dhanraj Saripalla, a specially-abled but talented medal-winning skater, gave up the sport after suffering serious injuries at a competition in China. Madhav attributes his achievement to his son, who suffers from a learning disability.

Over the past 14 years, Madhav has participated in numerous marathons across Karnataka and other states. His first 21-km marathon was at Yedapadav in Mangaluru in 2011.

Madhav is now training for 'Mangalore Marathon 2025', where he plans to run 32 km on November 9. "I hardly find time to practice because of my duty hours. But I make sure to train three days a week, covering over 20 km in about 2.45 hours. After every practice run, my wife gives me ganji and eggs," he told *TNSE* with a smile.

Life hasn't been easy for Madhav. His daughter Nandini is also specially-abled, while his granddaughter Shriya too has health issues. In 2007, a portion of Madhav's house collapsed. Madhav rebuilt it in 2016-17 from the donations he received.

In 2018, he had to sell his auto to raise money for his daughter's wedding. "We suffered for five years without my auto. Since my son cannot travel by bus, I had to

Running a life's marathon



Madhav took to marathon after his son Dhanraj Saripalla, a specially-abled but talented medal-winning skater, gave up the sport after suffering serious injuries during a competition in China



Over the past 14 years, 68-year-old Madhav Saripalla has taken part in over 100 marathons across Karnataka and other states. His collection of medals is a testament to his grit and passion | *EXPRESS*

I hardly find time to practice because of my duty hours. But I make sure to train three days a week, covering over 20 km in about 2.45 hours. After every practice run, my wife gives me ganji (rice gruel) and eggs

—Madhav Saripalla, auto driver and marathoner

drop and pick him from his workplace," he said.

Dhanraj secured a job as an office assistant under the sports quota. Today, Madhav drives his relative's electric autorickshaw and earns around Rs 800 daily.

The marathon community has been his source of strength and support. "I received immense encouragement and respect from fellow runners," he said and hailed Dr Anupama Rao and Dr Raghavendra Rao for their support to his family. "They have been paying my marathon registration fees. I am grateful to them," he said.

Amitha D'Souza, former president of Mangalore Runners' Club, said, "I have run along with Madhav. He's truly inspiring. He's now preparing for his fourth consecutive Mangalore Marathon. Despite all his hardships, he remains strong and dedicated -- an example to all of us."

Dr Anupama Rao, professor, Yenepoya Dental College, said, "I met Madhav a few years ago at a Masters' Athletic Meet. I visited his house later. After knowing his hardships, I decided to support him in whatever way I can. Madhav is humble and hardworking and deserves greater recognition."



EXPRESS READ



Presidency varsity organises dance fest

Presidency University in association with Orissa Dance Academy organised 'Rasabhiva', a dance festival celebrating the Odissi and Kathak dance forms. The event was conducted under the 'National Presence' scheme of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, that aims to promote Indian art and culture across educational institutions. The programme was guided by Dr Aruna Mohanty, noted Odissi dancer and current secretary and creative director of Orissa Dance Academy. Nissar Ahmed, Chancellor, Presidency University, expressed happiness at the collaboration with the academy and applauded the Government of India's initiative to promote diverse Indian culture among the youth. In Bengaluru, the academy presented 'Rasabhiva' in the presence of renowned classical artists of the city like Mysore B Nagraj, Sahana Das, Vyjayanthi Kashi and Poornima Gururaja. **ENS**

'Along with Hindi, all languages part of tradition'



Bengaluru: Punjab National Bank's Bengaluru office organised a Rajbhasha celebration and award distribution programme on October 17. The event was presided over by Santosh Kumar Sharma, Deputy Head of the Bengaluru Circle office. The chief guest of the event was

Anirban Kumar Biswas, Deputy Director, Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, while the special guest was Vijay Kumar, Retired Deputy Director, Central Silk Board. Biswas said along with Hindi, all languages are part of the Indian cultural tradition and added that equal and balanced development of Indian languages will help in the progress of the nation. Sharma shared the efforts taken by the bank to promote Hindi language. **ENS**

Lalbagh land will be handed back after Tunnel Road work: DKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has said that there is no cooperation from the Opposition BJP and JDS for the development of Bengaluru.

"They are bringing injunctions and objections in every issue. There is a team only to bring injunctions in the court. For the BJP, politics is more important than development," Shivakumar, who is also the state Congress president, said.

He was speaking during the 'Walk With Citizen' initiative at Bharat Nagar Gandhi Park in Herohalli under Yeshwanthpur Assembly constituency in West City Corporation in Bengaluru on Saturday.

The DCM clarified that that some portion of Lalbagh Botanical Garden will be taken for Tunnel Road Project. The land will be used until the work on tunnel road project is completed and will be handed back to the Lalbagh authorities. Doubling his attack against BJP MP Tejasvi Surya, Shivakumar said, "Let anyone object. I will not bother. They have filed a petition in the court. Their intention is not to make a name for the government by doing good work. I am not acquiring any land for this project. This road passes through a small part. I will check it. If there is a problem, an alternative arrangement will be made. There will be no problem for Lalbagh. We will use some space in Lalbagh until this project is done. Then clear it again. We will return it to the Lalbagh," he said, and added, Why are they (BJP) digging the earth and making a



DCM DK Shivakumar interacts with the public during his 'Walk with Bengaluru' initiative at Gandhi Park in Bharat Nagar under the Yeshwanthpur Assembly constituency on Saturday | *EXPRESS*

tunnel road in Mumbai. Why are they doing it in Delhi?" Shivakumar asked.

The DCM said that the residents complained about roads, park, gym, toilet, police, LED lights, bus stand, Metro, lake, polluted water, water connection, BDA site, CC camera, stadium, crematorium, road encroachment by street vendors, club and skill development center. He said that the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will attend to the complaints.

Surya represents Prakash Belawadi in high court against project

Bengaluru: Appearing before the Karnataka High Court as an advocate on Saturday, Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya represented actor Prakash Belawadi's Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the proposed North-South Tunnel Road project. The petition questions the lack of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project, absence of consultation with the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA), and raises concerns over the Detailed Project Report (DPR), particularly the tunnel alignment passing beneath the historic Lalbagh Rock. Surya argued that around 6.5 acres of Lalbagh land could be impacted by the project. He also cautioned that the 3,000-million-year-old Lalbagh Rock, recognised as a national geological monument, faces serious threat due to the proposed alignment. A bench of Chief Justice of Karnataka Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha assured him that the issue would be examined in detail and directed the additional government advocate to provide information regarding the proposal for tree cutting associated with the project. The court also sought input from the Geological Survey of India on the EIA. The matter is scheduled to be heard further on Tuesday. **ENS**

Tunnel Road work: DKS

Will any tree be cut in Lalbagh for project: HC poser to state govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE High Court of Karnataka on Saturday asked the state government if it had received a proposal to cut trees inside Lalbagh Botanical Gardens for the Tunnel Road project.

A division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha sought the government's response and issued notice to all respondents after hearing a public interest litigation filed by actor Prakash Belawadi and another individual.

Belawadi's counsel alleged that 6.5 acres of land has been demarcated inside Lalbagh for the tunnel project. Restrictions have been imposed on the entry and exit of people. Trees are likely to be axed in violation of the Karnataka Parks (Preservation) Act, 1975. Moreover, the project may pose a threat to the Lalbagh rock, which has been declared as a national geological monument, he said.

Then, the court asked the government advocate, "Are you planning to cut any trees? Make sure there is no damage to trees. Take instructions if there is a proposal to cut trees inside Lalbagh."

Seeking to quash the government order pertaining to the project, the petitioner alleged that the North-South Tunnel Road Project (Hebbal to Silk Board) was illegally pursued by the government through Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) at an estimated cost of Rs 19,000 crore without any application of mind, without statutory approval, and in violation of the constitutional mandate.

Stating that the project is in violation of provisions under the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority Act (BMLTA), 2022, and environmental laws, the petitioner alleged that the officials of the state government, Greater Bengaluru Authority and B-SMILE inspected Lalbagh in the first week of October, marked certain areas for acquisition and to cut trees and start land excavation work.

The project, if implemented, will permanently alter aquifer flow patterns, affecting Bengaluru's water security. No environmental impact assessment has been done, the petitioner alleged.

Demanding that the approvals given to the project be quashed, the petitioner urged the court to restrain the process to invite tenders.

36 school van drivers drunk, parents worried

RASHMI PATIL @Bengaluru

A special drive by the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) to check school van drivers for alcohol consumption found 36 drivers testing positive on October 24, raising concerns among parents and school authorities.

During the drive, a total of 5,881 school vans were checked across the city.

Menaka Reddy, Coordinator of the Parents Association Bengaluru East Corridor, said nine of the 36 drivers worked for schools in Bellandur and Domlur. "We are working with the traffic department to ensure school managements conduct routine checks and counsel drivers regularly," she said.

She added that parent associations and school managements have adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards rash driving and alcohol consumption among drivers.

Varsha Saxena, Head of Finance and Administration at Inventure Academy, said their school monitors drivers before every trip and dismisses anyone

found under the influence of alcohol. "We are especially vigilant after long weekends or holidays," she said.

Shashikumar, General Secretary of the Karnataka Association of English Medium Schools, said while schools counsel drivers, those operating private vans independently fall outside

school regulation. "Some may test positive due to alcohol consumed the previous night," he added. Meanwhile, B.N. Yogananda, General Secretary of the RTE Students and Parents Association, said police verification of all school staff — mandated in a 2015 order — is often ignored. "If these instructions were followed strictly, such incidents could have been avoided," he said.

DCP (Traffic-East) Anup Shetty said notices have been issued to school authorities whose drivers tested positive, and the RTO has been asked to suspend their driving licences. "If a driver is found drunk, we inform the school to arrange an alternative, or we do so ourselves to ensure children reach safely," he said.



We are working with the traffic department to ensure school managements conduct routine checks
Menaka Reddy, Coordinator of the Parents Association



The remains of the collapsed house after the LPG cylinder blast at KR Puram on Saturday; (inset) Akkayamma

REPLACE EXPIRED GAS TUBES EVERY 3-5 YEARS, WARNS FIRE OFFICER

A senior Fire and Emergency Services officer has urged citizens to regularly check and replace their LPG gas rubber tubes to prevent leaks. Speaking to *TNSE*, the officer said every household must replace the gas rubber tube before its expiry date and ensure it is changed once every three to five years. "Every LPG rubber tube has a manufacture and expiry date printed on it. The safe usage is three to five years from the date of manufacture. Replace it before expiry, even if it appears fine," the officer advised. He also cautioned the public to use only ISI-marked rubber hoses supplied or approved by authorised gas agencies to ensure safety and quality. The officer stressed the importance of regularly inspecting the gas tubes to prevent accidents. He advised checking for any cracks, tears, or twists, and keeping the tube away from heat or flames. It should also not come into contact with the stove body, he added.

HOUSES DAMAGED

81-year-old woman dies in LPG blast

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AN 81-year-old woman died and four others, including three of her family members, sustained injuries when an LPG gas cylinder exploded in a house at Triveni Nagar in the KR Puram police station limits on Saturday morning.

The explosion was reportedly caused by an outdated gas rubber tube that led to a leak. Due to the intensity of the blast, the house was completely damaged, and several adjacent houses were also affected.

The deceased has been identified as **Akkayamma**. Her son, Shekhar (52), grandsons, Kiran Kumar (24), a street vendor, and Chandana (22), along with their neighbour Kanachana (45), sustained injuries in the incident.

Shekhar's wife had passed away a year ago, and the family had been living in a rented house in Triveni Nagar for the past nine months.

According to the police, the incident occurred around 7.15 am, when Chandana went to the kitchen to prepare breakfast. It is suspected that gas had leaked dur-

ing the night and accumulated inside the house. When she lit the stove, the accumulated gas ignited, causing the cylinder to explode. Preliminary investigation revealed that the LPG rubber tube had expired in 2023 but was still being used, leading to the gas leak and subsequent explosion.

Akkayamma, who was asleep at the time, died on the spot after the roof slab collapsed on her due to the impact of the blast. Her body was later recovered by Fire and Emergency Services personnel. Chandana sustained severe burn injuries, while the others suffered minor injuries. The explosion caused the house to collapse, damaging nearby houses as well. The sound of the blast was heard up to two kilometres away, the police said.

A senior police officer said that a case has been registered against unknown persons and a private gas agency. Further action will be taken based on the investigation report.

Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje and KR Puram MLA Byrathi Basavaraj visited the spot and assured for compensation.

CRIME PATROL

Woman dies after being hit by BMTC bus

Bengaluru: A 58-year-old woman was killed after being hit by a BMTC electric bus near Hampi Nagar bus stand under the Vijayanagar traffic police station limits on Saturday evening. The deceased has been identified as Mala, a resident of Hampi Nagar. According to the police, the incident occurred around 6.15 p.m. when Mala was crossing the road near the bus stand. The bus reportedly hit her, leaving her with severe injuries. She was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared her dead.

57-year-old run over by cement mixer

Bengaluru: A 57-year-old man was run over by a cement mixer truck in Chikkajala traffic police limits on Saturday morning. The victim, Darshan — a resident of Vidyanayapura, was travelling towards Hoskote on his scooter to purchase land when the accident occurred near Sathanur village on the Sathanur-Bagalur Road around 8.45 am. The police said the truck driver, who was allegedly speeding, abandoned the vehicle and fled after the accident. Darshan, who worked as a signboard maker, succumbed to his injuries while being taken to a nearby hospital.

Man kills seven-year-old stepdaughter

Bengaluru: A seven-year-old girl was allegedly murdered by her stepfather at their home in Kannika Layout under the Kumbalgodu police station limits on Friday evening. The victim, Siri, was found dead by her mother, Shilpa, after she returned home from work. Shilpa later filed a complaint accusing her husband Darshan (30), an employee at a retail store in Anekal, of committing the crime. Darshan is now absconding. The police said the couple married four months ago after meeting on Instagram. Darshan often beat Siri, complaining that she was adamant

PRISON WARDER HELD FOR SMUGGLING PHONE INSIDE JAIL

RAKSHITH GOWDA @Bengaluru

IN a shocking breach of prison security, a warder at the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison was arrested for allegedly smuggling a mobile phone, concealed in his undergar-

ments, into the jail to pass it on to a murder-accused in exchange for money.

The accused, Amar Pranje (29), from Kalaburagi, has been working as a warder since 2019. The police said that during a routine security check on Octo-

ber 23, he tried to evade frisking after being asked to remove his belt. A search led to the recovery of the smartphone and two earphones hidden in his undergarments.

He was arrested after the prison authorities filed a case against him. He was booked under Section 42 of the Karnataka Prisons Act and Section 323 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).



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Corporate Office, P&T Colony, Seethammadhara, Visakhapatnam-13.

Tender Notice
Open tenders are invited through E-Procurement for the works of (1) Termination and Testing of already laid 218km of 95F DFC Cable under APDRP (World Bank) Project to bring into service and also Operations & Maintenance for a period of 15 Years in Visakhapatnam City (On leasing mode), Bid No:CGM / O&CS / APEPDL / VSP / 8 / 2025-26. 2) Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Testing and O&M of 2 X 95F Optic Fiber Cable in 2 ducts in Visakhapatnam City of APEPDL where US Cable is being under RDSIS scheme on Leasing Basis for a period of 15 Years. 3) For 150km Bid No:CGM/O&CS/APEPDL/VSP/9/2025-26. 4) For 250km Bid No:CGM/O&CS/APEPDL/VSP/10/2025-26. 5) For 380km, Bid No:CGM/O&CS/APEPDL/VSP/11/2025-26. For further details can be viewed in www.epdcorp.com and www.epdcorp.com, Contact Phone No. 0891-2582398, 3440814370, 8532068553.

Advt-106 Sd/- Chief General Manager/O&CS

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

Letter No: 824 Date: 25/10/2025

E-Tender Date Extension Notice No-01
Due to unavoidable reasons the dates of e-tender on 02/UJVN/EE (I&P-I)/2025-26 are hereby extended as follows:
Last Date for submission of bid on website: 14.11.2025 upto 5.00 PM
Last Date of Offline Submission of document (Document in original): 15.11.2025 upto 5.00 PM
Date of Opening of e-Tender Part-I: 17.11.2025 at 11.30 AM
Note: All terms and condition will remain same.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "<https://uktenders.gov.in>" **Executive Engineer (I&P-I)**
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

FINANCE DEPARTMENT
Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore.

No. FD 25 JS(B&R) 2025 Bengaluru, October 26, 2025

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

It is notified for general information that the outstanding balance of 8.16% Karnataka SDL 2025 issued in terms of the Government of Karnataka, Finance Department Notification No. FD 01 BMB 2015 Dated November 20, 2015 will be repaid at par on November 26, 2025 with interest due up to and including November 25, 2025. In the event of a holiday being declared on the aforesaid date by any State Government under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, the loan will be repaid by the paying offices in that State on the previous working day. **No interest will accrue on the loan from and after November 26, 2025**

2. As per sub-regulation 24 (2) and 24 (3) of Government Securities Regulations, 2007 payment of maturity proceeds to the registered holder of Government Security held in the form of Subsidiary General Ledger or Constituent Subsidiary General Ledger account or Stock Certificate shall be made by a pay order incorporating the relevant particulars of his bank account or by credit to the account of the holder in any bank having facility of receipt of funds through electronic means. For the purpose of making payment in respect of the securities, the original subscriber or the subsequent holders of such a Government Securities, as the case may be, shall submit to the Bank or Treasury and Sub Treasury or branch of State Bank of India, where they are encased / registered for payment of interest, as the case may be, the relevant particulars of their bank account.

3. However, in the absence of relevant particulars of bank account / mandate for receipt of funds through electronic means, to facilitate repayment on the due date, holders of 8.16% Karnataka SDL 2025 should tender their securities at the Public Debt Office, 20 days in advance. The securities should be tendered for repayment, duly discharged on the reverse there of as under:

"Received the Principal due on the Certificate".
4. It should be particularly noted that at places where the treasury work is done by a branch of the State Bank of India, the securities, if they are in the form of Stock Certificates, should be tendered at the branch of the bank concerned and not at the Treasury or Sub-Treasury.

5. Holders who wish to receive payment at places other than those where the securities have been encased for payment should send them duly discharged to the Public Debt Office concerned by Registered and Insured Post. The Public Debt Office will make payment by issuing a draft payable at any Treasury / Sub- Treasury or branch of State Bank of India conducting Government Treasury work in the State of Karnataka.

Sd/- (Dr. P.C Jaffer)

Secretary to Government

DIPRA/CP/3419/Zen/2025-26 (Budget & Resources), Finance Department

Chola
Enter a better life

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office: "Chola Crest", C54 & C55, Super B-4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032, Tamil Nadu, India. Branch Office: No.45, 45/1, Prestige Libra, 1st Floor, Above Pass Port Office, Lalbagh Road, Bangalore - 560027; Contact: Mr. Janardhan, Mob. No.95904 90222

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Mortgagee (s) that the below-described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited the same shall be referred hereinafter as Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited. The Secured Assets will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis through E-Auction. It is hereby informed to the General public that we are going to conduct a public E-Auction through the website <https://bankauctions.in/>.

S. No.	Account No. and Name of Borrower, Co-borrower, Mortgagees	Date & Amount as per Demand Notice U/s 13(2)	Descriptions of the property/ Properties	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit Bid Increment Amount
1	Loan Account No. HE01GAL00000066600 1) Jugraj Kailash Kumar, No.255, Flat No.302, Paras Mansion Akkipet Chickett Main Road, Near Jain Temple Akkipet, Bangalore, Karnataka- 560053. 2) Jugraj G, No.255, Flat No.302, Paras Mansion Akkipet Chickett Main Road, Near Jain Temple Akkipet, Bangalore, Karnataka-560053. 3) Vimaladevi, No.255, Flat No.302, Paras Mansion Akkipet Chickett Main Road, Near Jain Temple Akkipet, Bangalore, Karnataka-560053. 4) Living Style, No.8, 1st Floor, Arcot, Srinivasachar Street, Chickett, Bangalore, Karnataka-560053.	06-12-2024 & Rs. 1,55,72,958/- as on 06-12-2024	All that piece and parcel of the Immovable property bearing Apartment No. 302, assigned municipal No.254/7 in the third floor consisting of 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, and toilets approximately measuring 1518.16 Square feet of super built up area along with 389.70 Square feet of undivided share in multi-storied residential building known as "PARAS MANSIONS" constructed on bearing No.254, 255, 256, 257, Situated at Akkamahadevi Road, Akkipet, Bangalore-560053, in the Corporation Ward No.29, and bounded on the East by: Akkamahadevi Road, West by: Private property, North by: Private Property, South by: Private Property. (Physical Possession)	Rs.2,05,00,000/- Rs.20,50,000/- Rs.1,00,000/-

E-Auction Date and Time: 28-11-2025 at 11:00 am to 1:00 PM (with unlimited extension of 3 min each), EMD Submission Last Date: 27-11-2025 (Up to 5.30 P.M.); Inspection Date: 24-11-2025 and 25-11-2025 (10.00 A.M to 1:00 P.M.).

- All interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the website <https://bankauctions.in> & www.cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact - Mr. Muhammed Rahees - Ph.No.8124000030 / 6374845616, Ms.4 Closure.; Rekha, Ph. No. 8142000062, E-mail: CholaAuctionLAP@chola.murugappa.com.
- For further details on terms and conditions please visit - <https://bankauctions.in> & www.cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices to take part in e-auction. **THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002**

Date: 26-10-2025, Place: Bangalore Sd/- Authorized Officer, Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited.

PUNJAB & SIND BANK
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Chickpet Area Branch, 678-679, S.B. Market Lane, Bangalore-560053, Phone: 080-22267476, 22269355, Mob : 9877603161, E-mail: b0348@psb.co.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

E-Auction Date & Time: 28.11.2025 at 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Last Date of EMD Submission: 26.11.2025 at 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Property Inspection Date & Time: 25.11.2025 at 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Notice is hereby given to public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/ charged to the secured creditor, Symbolic/Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Punjab & Sind Bank (secured creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis.

S. No.	Name & address of Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/Mortgagee(s)	Detailed description of the immovable property with known encumbrances if any	Notice Amount & Date		Property Inspection Date & Time	Last Date & time of EMD Submission
			Present Outstanding amount	Reserve Price (Amt. in lacs) EMD Amount Bid increase amount		
1.	1.Hemavati B.G. D/o Rangappa Ganappa W/o Subramani Raju 2.Subramani Raju K.C. S/o Chengamandadi 3.Sunil S Yadav S/o Subramani Raju	All the piece and parcel of property in 1 st floor bearing No. 626, 10th C Main, 30th Cross, Jayanagar 4th Block, Bangalore inclusive of 13 square house along with half undivided share in the land measuring about 910 sq ft along with terrace rights on the second floor measuring east to west 60 feet, north to south 30 feet in all measuring 1800 sq. Ft bounded on East by : Property No 627, West by : Road, North by : Road and South by : Property No 625.	Date : 22-07-2015 and Amount: Rs. 105.71 Lakh	Rs. 330.00 Lakhs Rs. 33.00 lakhs Rs.1.00 Lakh	25.11.2025 11:00 am to 3:00 pm	26.11.2025 11:00 Am to 4:00 pm Physical Possession 20.09.2025

*NOTE: The measurement of above property, however, be verified by the bidders at site and also from the records of the Revenue Authorities prior to participating in auction.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS : For Detailed Terms and Conditions of auction, Visit our Bank's website www.psbindia.com

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI RULES, 2002

The borrower/guarantors are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date : 25.10.2025

Place : Bangalore

Authorized Officer

Punjab & Sind Bank

MINISTERS BACK CM, SAY READY TO QUIT

● CABINET REJIG TO WORK IN FAVOUR OF SIDDARAMAIAH ● SHIVAKUMAR MAY HAVE TO WORK HARDER

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

WITH ministers aligned to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seem to have decided to sacrifice their posts to help him reshuffle the cabinet and continue in his post, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, aspiring to be the next CM, has a fresh task cut out for him. If the high command gives its nod for the reshuffle and lets Siddaramaiah continue as CM after he completes two-and-a-half years in office, Shivakumar is likely to exert pressure on the top leadership for a fresh deal.

It is believed widely that the party high command oversaw an agreement in 2023 where the CM post was to be shared equally between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar. But Siddaramaiah has denied there is any such pact.

RDPR and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge on Saturday said that if the cabinet has to be reshuffled or power has to change hands, both the CM and DCM will decide in consultation with the high command.

Close on the heels of Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan saying he is ready to quit to help Siddaramaiah reshuffle the cabinet, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Saturday said he too will resign if the high command asks him to. "When the party came to power, there was a proposal that opportunity should be given to those who deserved to be ministers but sat outside. I have no idea when and what the high command will decide, whether it will be a cabinet reshuffle or change of guard," he said.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundurao is also likely to quit. Both Gowda and Dinesh could be given the party's organisational responsibility, sources said. "Siddaramaiah will reshuffle the cabinet by November last

week. It will help the party face the upcoming polls to five GBA corporations and ZP/TPs with new energy, and overcome anti-incumbency," a ministerial aspirant said. AICC General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal is also in favour of the reshuffle and Siddaramaiah continuing as CM, another source said.

The dinner the CM hosted for his cabinet colleagues recently seems to have helped him reshuffle the cabinet and continue as CM, as some ministers seem to be convinced about sacrificing their posts.

If Siddaramaiah reshuffles the cabinet after Bihar polls, it will be a setback for Shivakumar. But it is to be seen whether the top leadership takes the risk of changing the CM or wait for some more time for a smooth transition, analysts said.

CM to visit Delhi on November 15

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is expected to visit New Delhi on November 15, the day after Bihar poll results. This visit will be crucial as he completes two-and-a-half years in office on November 20. He is said to be eager to continue in the post and wants to first reshuffle the cabinet. It is to be seen whether the agreement on power transfer, reportedly happened when the party came to power in 2023, will feature during his meetings with leaders.

RDPR and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge said the Chief Minister is only taking part in the release of the autobiography of senior leader and Supreme Court lawyer Kapil Sibal. "The CM may meet AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, LoP in LS Rahul Gandhi, senior leader Sonia Gandhi, AICC general secretary KC Venugopal... What's wrong with it," he said.

The Chief Minister may meet AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, LoP in LS Rahul Gandhi, senior leader Sonia Gandhi, AICC general secretary KC Venugopal... What's wrong with it

RDPR and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge

Yathindra's remarks on ideological lines: CM

BELAGAVI: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah dismissed reports misinterpreting his son, Congress MLC Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah's remarks on leadership, asserting that his comments were made on "ideological lines," not as a leadership claim. Speaking to reporters at Kittur, where he attended the 201st Kittur Utsav, the CM said, "Yathindra's statement has been twisted. He only meant that I am currently organizing the Ahinda movement, and in the future, Satish Jarkiholi might take it forward. He never said Satish should be the leader. Such decisions are made by the party high command, not by us."



MATTER OF PRIDE

People purchase Kannada flags and bunting ahead of Kannada Rajyotsava in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

EC is a subsidiary of BJP: Byre Gowda

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Saturday launched a signature campaign of the Congress on 'Vote Chori'. Gowda alleged that the BJP and the Election Commission of India were trying to destroy the country's election system.

"Voter fraud is happening all over the country as the EC is working as a BJP subsidiary. As a result, the election process has been undermined. It is easy for BJP to win if the electoral system is destroyed. Both the EC and BJP are jointly involved in this illegality," Gowda said. About 35,000 bogus votes were added to the list in Ma-

hadavapura while the names of 6,000 genuine voters in Aland was omitted from the list, he said. "But the scam was stopped because it came to MLA BR Patil's attention at an appropriate time. Otherwise, so many votes would have been removed from the list. This would have affected the result of the election too," he said.

Voter fraud is happening all over the country as the EC is working as a BJP subsidiary. As a result, the election process has been undermined

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in conversation with former Union minister Rehman Khan during the inauguration of 'Darul Quran Campus' at Bannikuppe in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

Now, Yathindra says Siddu will complete full 5-yr term

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

CONGRESS MLC Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah, who recently stirred a political furore by naming Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi as a possible successor to his father and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, has now clarified that Siddaramaiah will continue as the CM for the full five-year term.

Speaking to reporters at Senate Bhavan in Manasagangotri Campus in Mysuru on Saturday, Yathindra said, "In the current situation, Siddaramaiah will remain the CM for five years. There is no 'September or December Kranti' (revolution) within the Congress government."

Dr Yathindra said that if the party issues him a notice seeking an explanation for his statement, he will respond accordingly. He further said that internal issues of the Congress will be discussed only within the party.

"I stand by my earlier statement made in Belagavi and

have already issued a clarification. I do not wish to create any further controversy by repeating it. I will not discuss it again in front of the media. There was nothing wrong in what I said," he added.

Earlier, addressing a seminar on "Social and Educational Survey: Historic Background, Implementation Challenges, and Our Responsibility" organised by Jagrutha Karnataka, Dalitha Vidyarthi Okoota, and Mysuru University Researchers Association at Senate Bhavan, Dr Yathindra said, "Caste system is the most exploitative structure in our country. We can change our religion, but not our caste. It dictates our social status and profession from birth to death," he said, adding that it was only through Dr BR Ambedkar's Constitution that Dalits and backward classes gained access to education and employment through reservations, enabling them to live with dignity.

He said that resistance to caste surveys often comes from

powerful communities.

Criticising Infosys founder Narayana Murthy, his wife and MP Sudha Murty, and BJP leaders Tejasvi Surya and Pralhad Joshi for opposing the caste survey, Yathindra said, "Their statements suggesting that the survey covers only backward communities are misleading. Their remarks are attempts to confuse society," he added.

Where is Congress high command, asks Bommai

On the controversy surrounding Dr Yathindra's recent statement on change of guard in the state, former chief minister and BJP Haveri MP Basavaraj Bommai said, "His remarks have become a major topic of discussion. Though the CM has given his own clarification, Yathindra's comments have raised questions even within Congress about where the real high command is. The CM said the high command is the final authority — but after Yathindra's statement, people are wondering whether the high command is in Delhi or around the CM's own family," Bommai remarked sarcastically.

Congress govt is facing financial crisis, blaming BJP to hide it: Bommai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka government is in a financial crisis and is making allegations against BJP MPs to cover it up, claimed former chief minister and Haveri MP Basavaraj Bommai.

The government's order against the RSS violates the Constitution and will not stand the legal test before the law courts, Bommai told reporters in Bengaluru on Saturday.

"There is no question of us distancing ourselves from RSS programmes. This is a free country — we have freedom of speech, individual freedom, social and religious freedom. The State Government's order against the RSS goes against the basic Constitution and will not hold up in any court," the MP said.

On other organisations seeking permission to conduct processions, he replied, "Anyone can organise a procession. Our's is a big country, and every organisation should be given equal opportunity. The court has made the right decision in this matter. It has warned the government to take precautionary measures for the November 2 procession and instructed it to maintain law and order while allowing the event. Processions have been held everywhere —

only in a few places there were objections and disruptions. The confusion has been created by the government's own order," Bommai said.

On certain leaders and ministers objecting to the use of lathis during RSS processions, Bommai responded with a question, "Has anyone ever faced trouble because of these processions? The government itself is doing things that provoke unrest in society. The RSS has been holding such processions for decades — has it ever caused problems for anyone? Everyone in the world has their own beliefs. It's not right for the government to interfere with those beliefs. The government already faces many problems — heavy rains have caused hardship — instead of solving them, they are trying to divert people's attention," he alleged.

"The State Government is in a financial crisis and is making these allegations just to hide it. During the Covid-19 period, the state received adequate funds from the Centre. During the UPA regime, Rs 5,000 crore was announced for railway projects in Karnataka, but it was never released. Under our BJP government, the state received more than that every year. Now, the State Government is blaming MPs to cover up its own failures," Bommai added.

Winter session in Belagavi likely from Dec 8: Horatti

MALLIKARJUN HIREMATH @ Dharwad

THE winter session of the Karnataka state legislature is likely to commence on December 8 in Belagavi, Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti has said. Horatti said that a meeting in this regard will be held with the Belagavi Deputy Commissioner next week. He said that a discussion on the winter session has already been held with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who has also agreed with the schedule.

Expressing displeasure that a few elected representatives from North Karnataka do not discuss the issues concerning the region, Horatti said that two days (Wednesday and Thursday) will be reserved to hold discussions on North Karnataka. Horatti further said that while elected representatives from South Karnataka actively discuss issues concerning their region, those from North Karnataka do not show enough interest. He said that while a few leaders in the state are speaking about the "November revolution," the real need is to discuss and take up development works.

He also expressed concern over the influence of money in elections. He said that the political system needs to be changed. "People have to stop voting after taking money... but it seems to be a difficult task. People with ethics contesting in elections are easily defeated," Horatti added.

INVESTOR-FRIENDLY? INDUSTRIALISTS FACE MANY HURDLES IN KARNATAKA

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

MANY challenges continue to hinder Karnataka's competitiveness as a preferred destination for investors, said a leading industrialist. While Karnataka is often lauded for its skilled workforce, strong technology ecosystem and strategic location, the entrepreneur stressed that "ground realities are far less friendly than they appear on paper."

According to industrialist D Muralidhar, former FKCCI president, the biggest hurdles faced by new investors are land availability and pricing. "Affordable industrial land is scarce and the acquisition process is complicated," he

said, adding that power supply issues too affect industrial operations and investor confidence.

He noted that village panchayat taxes have become a burden for small and medium enterprises, while the overall cost of doing business in and around Bengaluru has risen sharply, making the region less competitive compared to neighbouring states. A key concern, he added, is the "unfriendly attitude of bureaucracy". Despite govern-

ment assurances of reform, new enterprises face procedural delays, lack of clarity and discretionary decision-making, he said. "The ground realities for new investment are very different from what is promised," he pointed out. Another source explained that red tape and delays are another word for corruption.

The inefficiency of digital systems also drew criticism. "Most digital systems are down most of the time and only certain officials know how to navigate them,"

he said, suggesting that it creates room for manipulation. He said the much-touted 'single window' clearance system as "ineffective in practice," forcing investors to visit multiple departments for approvals. He urged the state to stay one step ahead of Tamil Nadu and Telangana, which are aggressively courting new industries through investor-friendly policies and streamlined processes.

Muralidhar said the creation of a dedicated ministry for investment would help. "Karnataka needs a single, empowered point of accountability who can coordinate across departments and resolve investor issues swiftly," he said.

Affordable industrial land is scarce and the acquisition process is complicated — Former FKCCI president D Muralidhar

EXPRESS READ

Serve to build equitable society: CM to students

BENGALURU: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said that medical students should acquire quality education and dedicate themselves to serving society with a sense of social responsibility. He was speaking at an event organised by a private organisation to felicitate students from backward communities who scored well in the NEET 2025 examination and secured admission to government quota seats for first-year MBBS studies, in Bengaluru on Saturday. **ENS**

Govt raking up RSS issue to hide its failure: HDK

BENGALURU: Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Saturday said that the Karnataka government has brought the RSS issue to the forefront only to hide its failures. "RSS route marches are not something new. They have been happening for decades," he told the media. He said it is impossible to ban the RSS. "For a while, you (Congress government) targeted Dharmasthala. You created an SIT and wasted time. Stop talking about RSS and focus on development," he said. **ENS**

'They were paid ₹80 per online application of Form 7'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Each of the four 'agents' has played an important role in the alleged fraud. The political analyst was roped in because he had past experience of party-wise survey and manipulation of political data. The data operator was used to file the applications. Who identified and approached the four men for the job is key to the SIT probe. They are unemployed and aged

between 25 and 30. They were paid Rs 80 per online application of Form 7," said sources.

The SIT, headed by ADGP, CID, was set up last month to examine alleged instances of voter list fraud in Aland prior to 2023 Assembly polls, which was raised by Rahul Gandhi. SIT has also written to Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka for login IDs, OTP trails and other technical data, which were used for the alleged voter theft.

QUICK-FIX FOR POTHOLE

Energy dept keen on using fly ash from Bidadi plant

From Nov to July, 17,000 tonnes of ash was generated at the plant

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

THE energy department is keen on using fly ash generated at the waste-to-energy plant in Bidadi for roadworks. Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd (KPCL) has written to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) to see if fly ash from the Bidadi plant could be used for roadworks.

This move of the energy department comes in the backdrop of an agreement between CSIR-CRRI and the Greater Bengaluru Authority and the chief secretary on providing an aggregate solution to fix potholes within three minutes. "A special water repellent mix has been prepared. The chemical composition of which could not be disclosed. But the GBA hasn't started using this solution because of its existing contracts and tenders to execute roadworks. Thus, the roads continue to be in a poor condition," an official associated with CSIR-CRRI said.

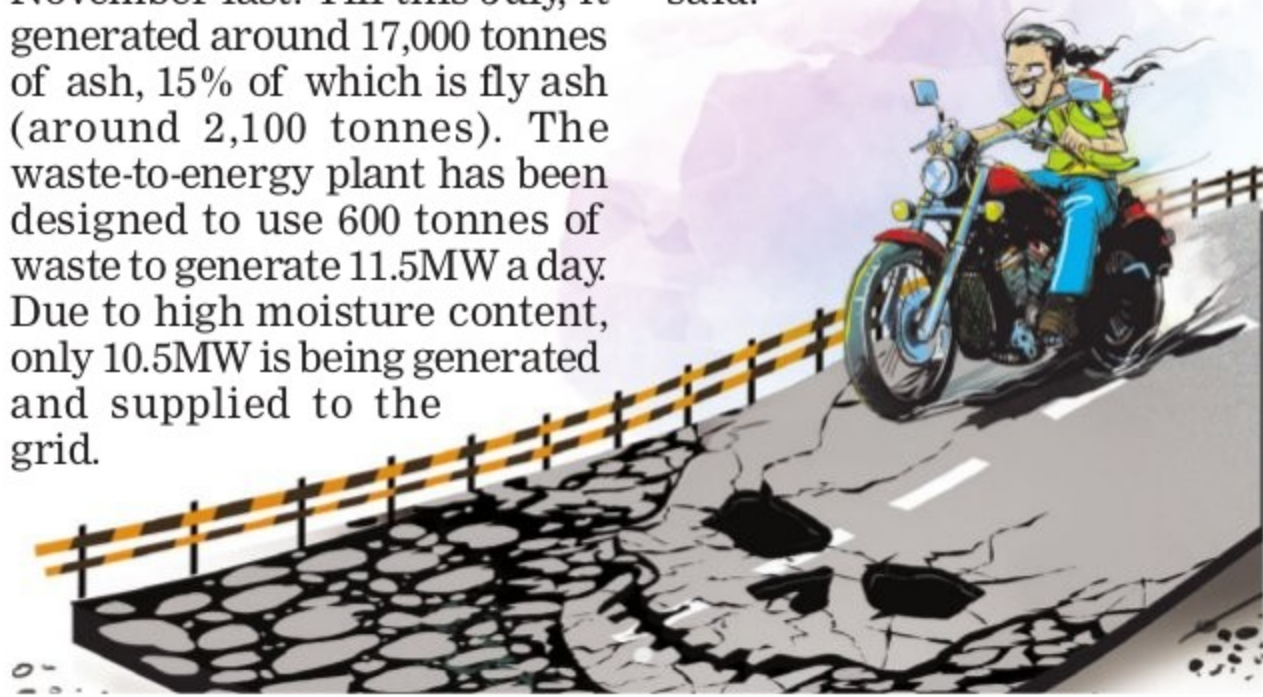
"Various agencies have been using fly ash for roadworks for over three decades. We are thinking of using it. To understand its binding capacity and chemical composition, proper

testing is required. For this, we have approached CRRI," Gaurav Gupta, additional chief secretary, energy department, told TNSE. Fly ash from thermal power plants is used in green-field projects, roadworks and in the cement industry.

"The aim of setting up the waste-to-energy plant was to manage the waste generated. But the plant is generating fly ash, which is also a type of waste difficult to manage. Hence, we have asked CSIR-CRRI to test fly the ash samples from the Bidadi plant at the earliest," KPCL officials said.

As per data, over 1.32 lakh tonnes of waste has been burnt so far to generate electricity. The plant started operations in November last. Till this July, it generated around 17,000 tonnes of ash, 15% of which is fly ash (around 2,100 tonnes). The waste-to-energy plant has been designed to use 600 tonnes of waste to generate 11.5MW a day. Due to high moisture content, only 10.5MW is being generated and supplied to the grid.

Officials from CSIR-CRRI said it is too early to come to a conclusion. "A thorough testing is needed. Fly ash generated from thermal power plants is clean and its chemical properties are known. But the same cannot be said about the fly ash generated at the waste-to-energy plant. Its characteristics, ash feasibility and environmental suitability should be understood. Presence of heavy metals, potential of hydrogen (pH) value, toxicity and elasticity should also be understood in lab and in natural environmental conditions, and all this will take time," Satish Pandey, senior principal scientist and head of the department, Flexible Pavements, CSIR-CRRI, said.



ROAD SAFETY

Ahead of DCM DK Shivakumar's 'Walk with Bengaluru Citizens' initiative on Sunday, GBA workers asphalt the roads inside Cubbon Park in Bengaluru, on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Endowment award in memory of TJS announced

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

MEMBER of the Legislative Council (MLC) K Shivakumar on Saturday announced that a national-level endowment award will be instituted in the name of senior journalist TJS George to honour editors of media organisations under the Karnataka Media Academy.

Speaking after being felicitated by the Academy, Shivakumar said an endowment fund of Rs 1.5 lakh would be set up in George's name to recognise journalists who uphold impartiality in their work. He recalled that he had earlier established the

Mookanayaka Dr B R Ambedkar Endowment Award in the Academy for columnists writing on social justice.

Remembering TJS as an "impartial journalist" who personally guided and corrected the work of younger reporters, Shivakumar said he would continue to raise his voice for the welfare of journalists and the field of journalism even in the Legislative Council.

Academy member Ayesha Khanum, speaking on the occasion, praised Shivakumar for his three decades in journalism and said the fraternity was proud of his election as an MLC.



TJS George

Violators to be fined Rs 2,000- 10,000

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

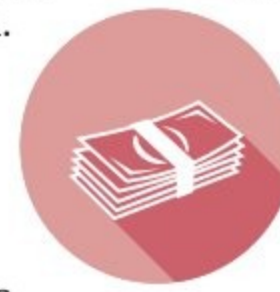
BSWML has brought down the number of black spots across the city from 869 to 150 after a tireless campaign, said BSWML Chief Executive Officer Karee Gowda. There are strict instructions from Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar

to keep the city clean and take strict action to contain garbage dumping, he added.

"The garbage dumped at the doorsteps will be lifted after a few hours. But violators will be fined Rs 2,000 to Rs 10,000. If the marshals are questioned for such action, they will show the videos recorded

earlier to justify the civic agency's action," said Gowda.

This initiative comes after Shivakumar visited the Bengaluru East City Corporation on October 18, where he directed GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao to take strict measures to contain dumping of garbage.



VTU to set up quantum computing centre in B'luru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

TO encourage research in the field of quantum computing, the current office of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) will be converted into a

quantum computing lab. Speaking at the felicitation ceremony organised by senate members of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) Prof T G Sitarum, AICTE Chairman, said, "The non-functional AICTE office in Bengaluru will be converted into a quantum computing

lab."

He said, "VTU Vice-Chancellor Prof S Vidyashankar had requested turing the office into a quantum computing lab and we fulfilled the request. The work would begin next month."

"Every year, 1.5 million students graduate with engineering degrees. However, the GER remains low. Over the past 50 years, this figure has not changed significantly. In Korea, the GER is 96%, while in India it is 32.5%," he said.

REVA varsity felicitates students representing India in Robotics Olympics



Bengaluru: Five students of the Malleswaram Govt High School were felicitated at REVA University for being selected to represent India at the FIRST Global Challenge - Robotics Olympics 2025 in Panama. The students - Arjun K Raj (robot CAD designer), G N Chandan Raj (electronics lead), Goresh K (robot programmer), Ningaraj (mechanical lead) and Parashuram M (robot driver) - showcased their robot and interacted with students and faculty members during the event on Friday. Dr P Shyama Raju, Chancellor of REVA University, praised the students for their innovation and highlighted the university's 'Educate to Enterprise' philosophy.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shabana Parveen Hidayathulla D/o Mohamed Ali, residing at Ward No.13, Opp. Poly Clinic, Tope Khana Mohalla, Ramanagaram - 562159 have changed my name as **Shabana Parveen** Sworn in front of Notary M Ananthamurthy, Vide affidavit Dtd. 13-10-2025 on my own free will. Hence forth i will be known, called and recognized as **Shabana Parveen**



SALE
Site for **Sale 4500 sft.** at 8.05 Cr, Indiranagar, Bengaluru. Agent Excuse
call- 9008012726



2 Acres 5 Guntas land for sale near Sodekoppa Quick and transparent deal. Good location for layout. Direct owners: +917899028881
TUMKUR Plots for sale

TUDA Approved A Khata sites in Hirehalli Tumkur ,1.9 kms B'lore-Tumkur Highway , Rs 2,100/- sqft call- 7899028881 / 9964705451

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा
Bank of Baroda

Jalahalli Branch
No. 12/10, 1st MSR Main Road
Sundar Nagar, Gokula Jalahalli
Bangalore-560054, Karnataka

LOCKER OPEN NOTICE

This is the information of our valued patrons who have taken lockers on rent at below mentioned **Bank of Baroda, Jalahalli Branch, Bangalore** and have committed breach of agreement. The notices sent as per RBI / Bank's guidelines to the renters at their recorded addresses have been returned undelivered stating either person's addresses not found or left. Efforts to contact the locker holders in person at their present whereabouts could not be ascertained. Thus, having no alternative, the notice is given to the persons named below for contacting branch and to clear the dues of the Bank within a period of 15 days, failing which the bank will proceed to Break Open the Locker at their cost, risk and responsibility and the Bank will exercise its right to lien for recovery of outstanding rent cost and other charges.

Locker Holder Name	Locker Number	Outstanding Balance	Break Open Date & Time
Mr P C Mathew	8955AX0165	Rs.14573/-	03.07.2025 3.00 PM

Date: 24.10.2025
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda

WITHOUT HARD WORK, NOTHING GROWS BUT WEEDS GORDON B HINKLEY

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE (COMMERCIAL COURT DIVISION), AT BENGALURU COM OS. No. 998/2025 (CCH No.84) BETWEEN: 1. SYED NIKHAT HAJIRA A.H. 2. MR. NISHTAKE AHMED ILVAS. 3. MR. MUHAMMAD AHMED ILVAS. 4. MRS. ZUBEDA YASMEEN. 6. MR. MUHAMMAD NABEEL. 7. MRS. ANJUMARA AHMED - PLAINTIFFS AND: 1. MR. RAFAEQUE P... DEFENDANT SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

1. MR. RAFAEQUE P. S/o Sri. Sooppy Rafaeque Manzi, Aged about 47 years, Residing at Kottakkal, Iringal, Kozhikode, Kerala - 673 521. Presently Residing at # R8, 2nd Floor, 7th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Bangalore - 560 064. Also at 982, 2nd Floor, S.T. Bed, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560 034.

Whereas the above-named Plaintiffs instituted a suit against you seeking the ejectment of the Defendant from the Plaintiff Schedule Property and to direct the Defendant to deliver vacant and peaceful possession of the same within a period as may be fixed by this Hon'ble Court, for recovery of arrears of rent for the relevant period, along with mesne profits for the Defendant's alleged unauthorised and illegal occupation of the leased premises, for future mesne profits from the date of filing of the suit until delivery of possession, or in the alternative, for an enquiry into the determination of such mesne profits along with costs.

You are hereby summoned to appear before this court on 10-11-2025 at 11:00 AM before the Addl. City Civil and Sessions Judge (CCH-84) in person or through advocate/pleader to answer the questions to the same. Failing which the suit will be heard and determined as ex-parte.

PLAINT SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of 2nd Floor having super built-up area of 2300 sq. ft. comprised in immovable property bearing site no. 982, in the layout formed by BDA, S.T. Bed, 1st Block Koramangala, and bounded on: East by: Road, West by: Private Property, North by: Private Property, South by: 30 Feet Road Given under my hand the seal of the court on 25-10-2025

By order of the court, Senior Sheristadar, Commercial court Unit, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

KNS LEGAL, Advocates
No. 11/3-5, 2nd Floor, Palace Loop Road, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore - 560 001.

EQUITAS SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD (FORMERLY KNOWN AS EQUITAS FINANCE LTD)
REGISTERED OFFICE- NO. 769, SPANER PLAZA 4TH FLOOR, PHASE II, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI, TN- 600002, PH-044- 42995000, 044-42995050

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

APPENDIX IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8(6)] - Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Mortgagee (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Equitas small finance Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned accounts. The details of Borrower (s) Mortgagee (s)/ Guarantor (s)/ Secured Assets Dues Reserve Price/E-Auction date & time and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below

Name & Address of Borrowers/ Mortgagees/ Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Properties with known encumbrances, if any	Reserve Price/ EMD Price & Bid Increase Price	Date & Time of E-Auction	Loan / Total Dues
1. MR. J VASU/O JALARI SANJEEVAIAH, NO 25/ 1, B 1ST CROSS, BEHIND STUDIO COMPLEX LLD SRINIVASA KALYANA MANTAPPA ROAD OPP TO SUN JUPITER SCHOOL, JARAGANAHALLI, P NAGARA, BANGALURU - 560078.	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Flat bearing No.FF-1 in 1st floor of the multistoried building known as "SS SUNSHINE" with super built up area 1195 Sq. Feet with one covered car parking space with UDS 240 Sq., Feet Formed in Old No.69/195, Site No.69, Property Register No.191, Present BBMP Khatha No.191/69/195 formed in S.No.2/1, in the layout Dwarakanagara , converted for residential purpose vide conversion no. ALN (SR) (S)299/96-97 situated at Channasandra village , Utharahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore District . Situated at within the Sub-Registration District of BASAVANGUDI (CHAMARAJAPETE) and Registration District of BANGALORE.	Rs.53,25,000 Rs. 10,000	28-11-2025 From 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM	Loan Account No-EMFIBUTH0073108 / ELPIBUTH0073109 Claim Amount Due Rs.5301250/- as on 27-11-2024 with further interest from 28-11-2024 with monthly rest, charges and costs, etc., (Total Outstanding being Rs.6103612/- as on 06-10-2025).
2. MRS. D SUMITHAW/O J VASU NO 25/ 1, B 1ST CROSS, BEHIND STUDIO COMPLEX LLD SRINIVASA KALYANA MANTAPPA ROAD OPP TO SUN JUPITER SCHOOL, JARAGANAHALLI, P NAGARA, BANGALURU - 560078	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing site no.128, katha no.85/13 and 85/15, situated at agara village, kengeri hobli, Bangalore south taluk, Bangalore, presently comes within the limits of agara village panchayathi. Measurement: east to west 40ft, north to south 55' + 51.5ft, total extent 2130 sqft Situated at within the sub - registration district of jayanagara (j.p. nagara) and registration district of Bangalore.	Rs.64,74,000 Rs.6,47,400 Rs. 10,000	28-11-2025 From 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM	Loan Account No-SEMLAT0281513 Claim Amount Due Rs. 2189380/- as on 10-04-2024 with further interest from 11-04-2024 with monthly rest, charges and costs, etc., (Total Outstanding being Rs. 1823325/- as on 07-10-2025).

For details and queries on purchase and sale contact no- Mabusab 8861292573, Rakesh M V 9611500100, Lakshith T H 9945381028

The intending purchaser/ bidder is required to submit amount of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) by way of NEFT/RTGS/DD in the account of "Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd" Account No- 200000807225 and IFSC code- ESFB001001 Bhaaggyam Galleria New No. 18 , Bazulla Road, T-Nagar, Chennai-600 117, and on any nationalized or scheduled bank on or before date: 27-11-2025.

For details for terms & conditions of E-Auction sale please refer to the link provided in www. equitasbank.com & https://www.bankauctions.com.

Date - 26.10.2025, Place - Bangalore
Authorized officer, Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd

Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing, Kancheepuram
Chennai-600127, Tamil Nadu, India
(An Institute of National Importance under MoE, Govt. of India)

ADMISSION TO PhD PROGRAMME - JAN 2026

Advt. No. : IIITDM/PhD/Admission/03/01/Jan-2026 Dated 10/10/2025

IIITDM Kancheepuram located at outskirts of Chennai is an Institute of National Importance setup by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India. IIITDM Kancheepuram invites online applications for admission to PhD programme for Jan 2026 session.

Online application form and information regarding academic qualifications, eligibility and financial assistance are available on the Institute website (<http://www.iiitdm.ac.in>).

Contact us on phdadmission@iiitdm.ac.in for additional information.

Last date for online application: 03.11.2025 Registrar

यूको बैंक
(यूको वरिष्ठता का उद्घाटन)

UCO BANK
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Honours Your Trust

BTM Layout Branch (2540), No. 10, "Renuka", 16th Main, 8th Cross, Near Gangotri Circle, BTM 1st Stage, Bangalore - 560029.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF E-AUCTION SALE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)
(In terms of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002)

Whereas the Authorized Officer of the Bank has issued a Demand notice under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 and thereafter in exercise of powers under Section 13(12) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 has taken possession of property mortgaged to Bank under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT 2002. The undersigned in the capacity of Authorized Officer has decided for sale of the property to public by E-auction and invite bids from the intending purchasers for purchase of immovable property mentioned hereunder on "AS IS WHERE IS" & "AS IS WHAT IS" basis.

Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantor	(a) Date of Demand Notice (b) Amount due as per Notice (c) Date of Possession (d) Present outstanding Dues	(a) Date & Time for Inspection of Property (b) Last Date for Submission of Bids & Documents (c) Date & Time of Auction	(a) Reserve Price (b) EMD Amount (c) Bid increase Amount
1. M/s Sai Vishnu Marketing, Regd. Office: V. No. 80, 1st Floor, Meenakshi Layout, 1st Phase, Kalena Agrahara, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560076 2. Mr. Sai Sabarish V (Guarantor) S/o. Ashwathnarayana V, No. 80, 1st Floor, Meenakshi Layout, 1st Phase, Kalena Agrahara, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560076 3. Mr. Ashwathnarayana V (Guarantor) S/o Krishnaiah V, No. 80, 1st Floor, Meenakshi Layout, 1st Phase, Kalena Agrahara, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560076 4. Mrs. Sreelatha A (Guarantor) W/o. Ashwathnarayana V, No. 80, 1st Floor, Meenakshi Layout, 1st Phase, Kalena Agrahara, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560076	(a) 17-05-2025 (b) Rs. 1,48,78,682.70 Plus interest, expenses, charges etc. (c) 24-07-2025 (d) Rs. 1,47,89,137.70 Plus interest and other charges	(a) 27.11-2025 Between 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM (b) As per BAANKNET Guidelines (C) 28.11.2025 between 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM	(a) Rs. 54,36,000/- (b) Rs. 5,43,600/- (c) Rs. 25,000/-

Description of Immovable Property - Schedule - 'A' Property: - All the piece and parcel of Residential Vacant Site No. 15 (Formerly Eastern Portion of the Old Property No. 8 of V P Khatha No. 3477/C, Situated at Bilekahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk) Now identified as and Situated at 5th Cross, Abbayyappa Layout, N S Playa, Ward No. 65, Madivala Range of the Corporation of the City Bangalore. Measuring: East to West: 80 Feet. North to South: 50 Feet. Totally All Measuring 4000 Sq. Ft. and bounded on the:- East: By 25 Feet Road, West: By S N Shekar's property, North: By Private Property, South: By S N Babu and S N Mohan Kumar's Property.

Schedule - 'B' Property: - Property bearing Flat no 002 in Ground Floor, Constructed over the Schedule 'A' property contained 2 bedrooms with car parking and the super built up area measuring 1000 sq. ft. of the apartment building known as "S V Residency" together with 250 sq ft of undivided share right, title and interest of the land in the total land of schedule 'A' property having BBMP PID No. 65-139-015/1 and Bounded on: East: By Common Passage, West: By Open to Sky, North: By Flat No. 001, South: By Open to Sky. In The Name of: Mr. V Ashwathnarayana & Mrs. V.A. Sreelatha.

A/c. No. 25400210000240, IFSC Code: UCBAA0002540, E-Mail ID : btmlay@ucobank.co.in

Details of Known Encumbrances: Not Known

The auction Sale will be "Online e-Auction" bidding through Website : <https://baanknet.com/education-psb/home>. Bidders are advise to go through the Website for detailed terms and conditions, login id & Password, Uploading Data, Submitting Bid, Training / Demonstrations, Inter-se Bidding etc. of Auction Sale before submitting their bids and taking part in e-Auction Sale Proceeding.

Place : Bangalore
Date : 24-10-2025
Sd/- Authorised Officer
UCO Bank

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Khata conversion bogus, don't pay for it, says HDK

Union minister says state govt's initiative is an extortion scheme

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

UNION Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel HD Kumaraswamy on Saturday dubbed the state government's initiative of conversion of B khata to A khata a bogus act and told the people not to pay for it.

"This is an extortion scheme. No one should pay money for khata conversion. In two years, when the JDS-BJP alliance forms government in the state, we will get it done for you at minimal cost," he said. "In 2007, when I was the chief minister, a central government programme was launched for urban development. BBMP was created with 198 wards. A development plan of Rs 25,000 crore was drawn up for Bengaluru and Mysuru. We had fixed clear rates for khata conversion. Then some people went to court. The court directed that khata be given within 15 days. From then itself, the government and BBMP have collected money for khata. Why should they charge again now?" he questioned.

He said the government has

raked up the RSS issue only to hide its failures. "Banning the RSS is not important. First, solve the people's problems," he said. Responding to CM Siddaramaiah's remark that "Kumaraswamy never asks Modi for grants," he said: "When I was the CM, if Modi did not give funds, did I just sit idle? When floods hit Kodagu, I got 1,000 houses built. I didn't sit quietly just because the Centre didn't give money. They lack both ability and willpower," he said.

Replying to Deputy CM DK Shivakumar's remark that "let Kumaraswamy build a factory, we will give him permission," he said, "Let him first find out what reforms I brought when I was the CM. I had launched the 'Compete with China' programme. I had set up industries in nine clusters. There was a plan to give Rs 25,000 crore in subsidies to industries. But they pulled down my government."

Kumaraswamy dismissed Shivakumar's invitation for a debate and said: "That person does not have the moral standing for a debate."



'Will acquire land wherever HDK wants'

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday said that he was willing to acquire land wherever HD Kumaraswamy wanted if he was willing to bring in industries. Speaking to reporters at Gandhi Garden in Yeshwanthpur, he said, "What corruption is happening in B khata transfer? This is being done to benefit people. Rectifying property documents is the 6th guarantee of our government." Asked about BJP's threat to cancel the GBA, he said, "It is not in their destiny to come to power and change the GBA. If they don't want the GBA, let them boycott the upcoming elections."

Coastal erosion leading to rapid loss of sea turtle habitats, reveals study

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

SEA turtles along the Karnataka coastline are facing habitat loss owing to coastal erosion, seawall construction and climate-induced extreme weather events, according to a new study by the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

The study shows that human activities and shifting ocean conditions are causing the loss of vital habitats like turtle nesting beaches. Published in the journal 'Regional Studies in Marine Science', the study revealed that over 52% of local fishermen attributed the decline in turtle nesting to sea erosion and seawall construction.

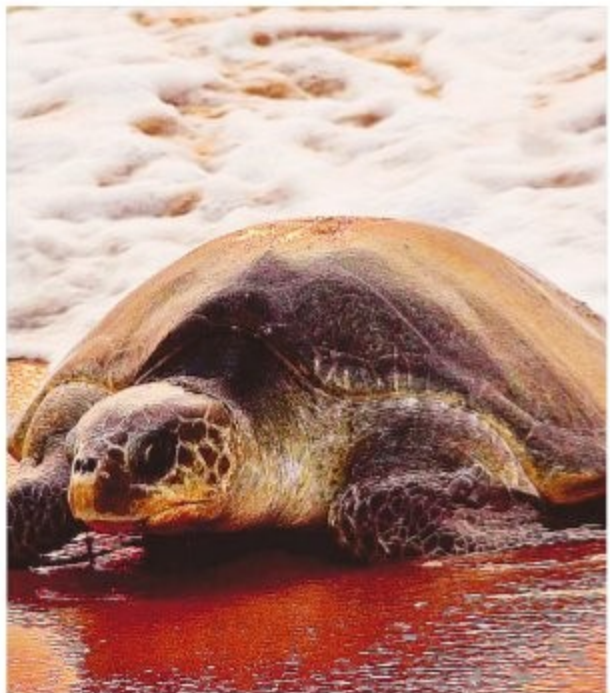
The research, spearheaded by Dr Bindu Sulochanan at CMFRI's Mangaluru Regional Centre, employed a multifaceted approach blending field observations, a decade-long analysis of marine productivity, assessments of coastal and ocean water quality, vessel traf-

fic mapping and traditional ecological insights to evaluate the extent of habitat degradation.

A press release from the CMFRI said that between 2013 and 2023, the study recorded a significant narrowing of beach stretches at key traditional locations, including Panambur, Yermal, Kirimanjeshwara and Bhatkal, even though protective seawalls had been constructed to safeguard the coastline.

Although seawalls were observed to intensify coastal erosion, CMFRI researchers advocated for 'soft engineering' approaches like living shorelines that incorporate native vegetation and carefully designed structural elements as a more sustainable and ecologically sound alternative.

The authors emphasised the need to control artificial lighting along turtle nesting beaches, as it disrupts hatching orientation and advocated for enhanced coastal waste management to curb the flow of litter from rivers and stormwater



drains onto the shoreline.

"Turtle strandings, mostly olive ridleys, were recorded along the coast between 2021 and 2024, with some individuals rescued and released by fishermen. Vessel traffic analysis showed that over half of fishing vessels operated at speeds below 0.6 knots, opening scope for fishermen to act as conservation partners through awareness and incentive programmes," said Dr Bindu Sulochanan.

On climate change, the study found that increasing sea sur-

face temperatures and recurring El Niño events have altered the productivity of coastal waters, influencing turtle foraging grounds.

The study further pointed out that Karnataka's nearshore waters, though productive, are increasingly vulnerable to sediment loss and storm surges--88 storms affected the Indian subcontinent between 2012 and 2023.

"The interplay of erosion, seawalls and climate change poses a compounded threat to both sea turtles and coastal communities," Dr Sulochanan said and added that, "Conservation strategies must integrate habitat restoration, community participation, and adaptive coastal engineering."

The authors emphasised the importance of designating protected zones for turtle nesting, promoting community-led solar fish drying and net-mending initiatives to maintain clean beaches and preserving coastal wetlands as natural buffers against eutrophication and erosion.

Online services of escoms shut on Oct 27, 28

BENGALURU: Online services of all the five energy supply corporations (escoms) such as payment of electricity bills, name change, new connections and tariff change will not be available for consumers in urban areas starting from 8 pm on October 27 to 11 am October 28 to carry out system maintenance works. Services in areas falling under the sub-divisions of Bescom, Mescom, Gescom and Hescm will be affected. Online services that are usually available through the Escoms' portals: <https://www.bescom.co.in>, www.hescom.co.in, www.gescomglb.org, www.mescom.org.in and www.cescomysore.in and payment services through the Bescom Mitra mobile app, Bengaluru One and Karnataka One, etc. will not be available during the maintenance work period. The energy department has sought for cooperation from people, a release said. **ENS**

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY

Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560 064.
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

E - TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website: <http://www.reps.gov.in> (Works)

E-TENDER NOTICE No: RW/IEL/OT/ASC/2025-26/04 RT Dtd.:24/10/2025

1). **Tender No.:** RW/IEL/OT/ASC/2025-26/04 RT Dtd.:24/10/2025. **Name of the Work:** Repair & Rewinding of Bipolar Rectangular Lifting Magnet in Axle shop at RWF, Yelahanka, Bengaluru -560064. **Estimated Value in Rs.17,70,000/- EMD Amount in Rs.35,400/- Date & Time of Closing of Tenders:** 17.11.2025 at 10:30 hours. **Completion Period:** 120 days.

This tender notice can be viewed on our website www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in Dy.CME/IA

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA

AT BANGALURU

to the Respondent No.3 & 5, vide Court Order dated: 09.10.2025

WRIT PETITION NO.2415/2022 (L-ESI)

PETITIONER: MR.MANJUNATH NAYAK,

S/O LATE MANESHWAR AGED ABOUT 57 YEARS R/O No.S-6. BALAJI ROYAL CASTLE, DOLORS COLONY, NEAR NEW BUS STAND, HUBLI, KARNATAKA-580030.

(BY SR. MOHD. USMAN SHAIKH, ADVOCATE)

Vs RESPONDENTS: 1. REGIONAL DIRECTOR,

EMPLOYEE'S STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION. (MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT GOVT. OF INDIA) REP BY REGIONAL DIRECTOR, REGIONAL OFFICE KARNATAKA NO.:10, BINNY FIELDS, BINNYPET, BANGALURU-560023.

AND 5 OTHERS

TO M/S BINARY SPECTRUM SOFT TECH PVT. LTD. PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANY, REGISTERED UNDER COMPANY'S ACT 1956, HAVING REGISTERED OFFICE AT NO.210/AJAY PLAZA, 1ST MAIN ROAD, NS PALYA, BANNERGHATTA ROAD, BANGALORE-560076. RESPONDENT NO.3

ACROPETAL TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED, 747/5, 3RD CROSS, 1ST MAIN, N S PALYA, BANNERGHATTA ROAD, BANGALURU, KARNATAKA-560076. RESPONDENT NO.5

WHEREAS the Writ Petition filed by the above named petitioner under Article 226 & 227 of the Constitution of India, prayed to Quash the order dated 21.12.2021 passed by the second respondent against the petitioner holding him as the principal officer of M/S Binary Spectrum Softtech Pvt. Ltd., having code No.50000418020000911, under section 45-A of the Employees State Insurance Act, copy of which is produced as Annexure 'A'.

Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this Court either in person or through Counsel duly instructed or through some one authorized by law, to Act for you in the above Writ Petition on **24.11.2025 at 10.30 A.M.** in case you fail to attend the Writ Petition.

If you fail to appear, the same will be dealt With, heard and decided in your absence.

Issued under my hand and the seal of this Court, this 09th day of OCTOBER, 2025.

By Order of the Hon'ble Court

Sd/- Assistant Registrar,

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public in General that my Clients are invited to purchase the Site No. 41, Property No. 8854/5/741, e-PID No. 1531557953, old Katha No. 13, Assessment No. 5/7, presently comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP Bengaluru North, Herohalli, situated at HEROHALLI VILLAGE, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru, measuring East to West: 60.0 Feet, North to South: 40.0 Feet, total measuring 2400 Square Feet, the descriptions of the property hereinafter referred to as the 'Schedule Property' from one Smt. NANDINI. N W/o. Late. E. Shivamurthy.

This is inform to the Public that, if any person/s having any claim, objections, or interest over the Schedule Property should be send their objections /claims to the below mentioned address within 15 days along with all their necessary documents, otherwise my clients could be come the over the head of Sale transaction with Smt. Nandini. N W/o. Late. E. Shivamurthy in respect of the Schedule Property. If any objections/claims would come after 15 days from the date of this public notice cannot be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY BEARING Site No. 41, Property No. 8854/5/741, e-PID No. 1531557953, old Katha No.13, Assessment No. 5/7, presently comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP Bengaluru North, Herohalli, situated at HEROHALLI VILLAGE, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru, site measuring East to West: 60.0 Feet, North to South: 40.0 Feet, total measuring 2400 Square Feet and bounded on the East by: Drainage, West by: 30.0 Feet Road, North by : Site No. 42 and South by: Site No.39 & 40.

COUNSEL ADDRESS:

DHANARAJ. R. Advocate
Office at No.15, 1st Floor, HAL Building, 1st Cross, C.K.C Garden, K.H. Road, near HCG Hospital, Bengaluru-560027.
Mobile No. 991676338
Email: dhanaaraj2136@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is negotiating for the purchase of the Schedule property from V. Divyeshwar, D/o. St. Late B. Venkatasahai and Smt. V. Swarnalatha, W/o. Sri. Late. B. Venkatasahai, both are residing at No.57, "T" Block, 2nd Main, BEL Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560 087, claiming to be the owners of the schedule property to my client in a written property agreement to sell the same in favour of my client i.e., Dr. Vishwanath S Hiremath, S/o. Shivalingaya G Hiremath, R/at. No.79, CHBS Layout, Vijayanagara BDA Complex, Nagarabhai Main Road, Bengaluru-560040. Therefore any person/s, Financial Institutions, Co-parcener of the owners, Legal representatives or any other person interested in the schedule property or opposing the sale of the schedule property to my client in any manner whatsoever shall submit written objections to the undersigned along with the supporting documents within 7 (Seven) days from the date of this publication. Any objections received subsequently shall not be considered and my client would proceed to complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of land together with the building standing thereon comprising of Cellar, Ground Floor, First Floor and Second Floor, being constructed on Commercial property bearing Kameshwarani Katha No.37/1/657/809, Assessment No.42/2A, TMC E-PID No.1659506111, Situated at, Bidadi Village, B.M.Road, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Ramanagara District, measuring East to West 24.384 Mtrs. (80'-0" feet), and North to South 21.336 Mtrs. (70'-0" feet), totally measuring to an extent of 520.256 Mtrs each floor, (5600 Sq.ft), and bounded on: East: Property belongs to Railway Department & Railway Road, West : Property belongs to Sri.Yallappa, North : Bangalore Mysore Main Road, South : Property belongs to Sri.Koti Hombiah.

Office Address:
Chandrasekhar. M.R., Advocate,
No. 2, Ground Floor, 'ASVIN' CENTENARY BHAVAN', K.G Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560009. Mobile: 9741485539

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY / e-Tender Notice

Tender No. :1REWDR/KWA-CE(SR)/TR/18126/2024 26 1.1

KIIFB-AUGMENTATION OF UNWS TO KOTTAYAM MUNICIPALITY-Package II A- Laying, testing and commissioning 600 mm DI k9 CWPMP from Existing Valvechamber @ Kwa Campus to Vedicupura line, 600mm DI pipe from Manipuzha to Existing OHSR @ Mariyappally, Gap closing Works and distribution system at various places including Charging Etc. Complete - Pipeline Work, EMD : Rs. 500000, Tender fee: Rs. 16540+2978, Last Date for submitting Tender : 07-11-2025 03:00pm, Phone : 0481-2562745

Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

KWA-JB-GL-6-459-2025-26 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kottayam



PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public at large are hereby informed that, my client had negotiated and agreed to purchase the Schedule Property described herein below mentioned property, from (1) SRI. RAYAPPA SON OF SRI. GABRIELAPPA, Aged about 85 Years, ADHAAR No.7743 6557 0455 & (2) SMT. ANNAMMA WIFE OF SRI. RAYAPPA, Aged about 74 Years, ADHAAR No.6963 9985 5854, both are residing at No.24, Near Govt Hospital, Seeghalli Village, Virgonagar Post, Bangalore, Karnataka-560049. As such any person/s/Company/Bank/ Institution having any claim whatsoever over the schedule property are hereby called upon to file their objections, claims along with supporting documents to the below mentioned address within 7 days from the date of this notification. If no objections/claims are received within the above said period my client shall proceed to conclude the sale transaction as if there are no objections or claims whatsoever and my client shall be considered as bonafide purchaser of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being residential site bearing No.20, old Katha No.52a/SITE No.20/SV No.28, Property No.28, New E.P.I.D Khatha No.1678/2/101 situated at Seeghalli Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, this property earlier comes under the jurisdictions of Ward No.14 of CMC Krishnarajapuram, and measuring East to West 32'X30' & North to South 9'75"X 9'14" meters in all measuring 88.19 Meters or 960 Square feet, and constructed Ground and First floor Residential House measuring 176.517/6/1899.998 meters each floor, together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever manner whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: East by : Road, West by : Remaining Portion of Site No.20, North by : Road, South by : Site No.19

Sd/- **G.V. ANJANEYA GOWDA,** ADVOCATE & CONSULTANT,
#250, White City Layout, Seeghalli Village, Bangalore-560049. Mobile No.9900716419

BANGALORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE

(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)

Office of the Director cum Dean, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560 002. Telephone: 080-26700810, Tele Fax: 080-26704342

E-mail: director_bmcric@yahoo.co.in

No. BMCRI/LIB/02/2025-26 Date: 24-10-2025

NOTIFICATION

Medical Books Exhibition is organized by this Institute, for Three Days i.e., on 03, 04 and 05 of November 2025 for the Purchase of Books for Library and Information Centre, BMCRI and for Students under SCSIP / TSP Scheme. Interested Suppliers / Publishers may register with Senior Librarian, BMCRI to participate in the Exhibition on or before 01-11-2025 by 5.00 PM. After the due date registration is not allowed.

Sd/- Director cum Dean, BMCRI, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/3416/Advt/02/25-26



ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ନିୟମାବଳୀ ଆୟୋଗ

ODISHA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

BIDYUT NIYAMAK BHAWAN

PLOT NO.4, OERC ROAD, SHAILASHREE VIHAR, BHUBANESHWAR-751021, TEL. No. 2721048, 2721049

E-mail: orc@odisha.gov.in, Website: www.oerc.org

NOTICE

No. OP.No.-01/2025-1347 Dt.: 25.10.2025

Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC) invites bids from Chartered Accountant firms with expertise both in audit of accounts and technical field in power sector particularly in Distribution sector for assisting the Commission in conducting Regulatory Audit of Books of Accounts of two DISCOMS of Odisha as per the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The 'Request for Proposal' is available in the OERC official website www.oerc.org. The bidding firm should furnish the bid as per RFP including details of their credentials. They will also be required to make presentation giving a broad outline of the understanding of the assignment, manpower capability and past experience in undertaking similar assignments.

The bids should reach Secretary, OERC latest by 5.00 PM of 27th November 2025. OERC reserves the right to reject the application of any of the intending Auditors without assigning any reason thereof.

By order of the Commission

Sd/- SECRETARY



Government of Karnataka Department Of Archaeology, Museums And Heritage, Mysore

Karnataka Exhibition Authority Premises, Mysuru-570010,

Tel : 0821-2424673/74, Fax No.0821-2424665,

Email- commr_amh@yahoo.in, Web : <https://archaeology.karnataka.gov.in>, <https://namnakarnataka.in>

Tender Notification Number: DAMH/CWT-20/2025-26 Date: 24.10.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor, Government of Karnataka, the department of Archaeology, Museum and Heritage, Mysuru has invited the itemwise tender for the 05 work DAMH/2025-26/OW/WORK_IDENT-137, 138 (Call-5) & DAMH/2025-26/SE0021, 139 (call-3), 127 (call-5) under the standard tender documents KWS-3 & 4. The amount of Minimum Rs. 84.61 lakhs and Maximum Rs.576.29 lakhs kept for these tenders as per Standard Tender bid Document. Tender documents can be obtained through e-portal from date 23.10.2025 onwards.

1 to 4 works Last date and time of any Queries for tender	30.10.2025, 17.00 hrs
1 to 4 Last date and time of tender submission	24.11.2025, 16.00 hrs
1 to 4 Opening of Date and Time of Technical bid	27.11.2025, 16.30 hrs
1 to 4 Opening of Date and Time of Financial bid	28.11.2025, 11.00 hrs
1 to 5 Pre-bid meeting of Date and Time	20.11.2025, 11.00 hrs
5 Last date and time of any Queries for tender	30.10.2025, 17.00 hrs
5 Last date and time of tender submission	06.11.2025, 16.00 hrs
5 Opening of Date and Time of Technical bid	10.11.2025, 16.30 hrs
5 Opening of Date and Time of Financial bid	11.11.2025, 11.00 hrs

Sd/- Commissioner
Department of Archaeology,
Museums And Heritage, Mysore.

DIPR/MYSORE/SHIRDISAI/1122/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our clients have entered into an Agreement to purchase the immovable property described in the Schedule hereunder from its owners Mr.Tanveer Ahmed, son of Late Kareem Abdul Khayoom and Mrs.Sadiya Begum, wife of Mr.Tanveer Ahmed, both residing at No.12, Robertson Road, Fraser Town, Bangalore - 560 005.

Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title, lien and interest in respect of the Schedule Property may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned with documentary evidence in support thereof within ten days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the claims of all such person/s shall be deemed to have been waived or abandoned and our clients will proceed with the conveyance as if no valid claims are subsisting against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of land together with the multi-storied residential Apartment building comprising of still floor for car parking, residential units in the Ground, First, Second and Third Floor constructed on site bearing No.17, B.D.A. PID No.6000032698, comprised in the layout formed by the Kanakashree House Building Co-operative Society Limited in residentially converted land bearing Survey No.47/1 and other Survey numbers of Byrathi Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, (converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District vide its Official Memorandum bearing reference No.ALN (E) (B) SR/58, 69, 60/2007-08, dated 18.02.2008) and bounded on the :

EAST BY : Private Property;
WEST BY : Road;
NORTH BY : Site No.16;
SOUTH BY : Site Nos.18 and 19;

and measuring on the :

EAST : 15.41 Meters or 50.54 feet;
WEST : 16.93 Meters or 55.53 feet;
NORTH : 22.78 Meters or 74.71 feet;
SOUTH : 22.75 Meters or 91.34 feet;
Totally measuring in all 409.26 Square meters or 4403.63 Square feet;

NISSAR AHMED & RAGHAVENDRA, Advocates

No.40, 1st Floor, Nandidurga Road, Bangalore : 560 046.

Dated : 26.10.2025 Place : Bangalore



EQUITAS SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD

Regd. Office: No.769, Spencer Plaza, 4th Floor, Phase-II, Anna Salai, Chennai, TN - 600 002. Ph : 044 - 4299 5000 / 044 - 4299 5050

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR THE SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Under SARFAESI Act, 2002, r/w Rule 8(i) & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers, Co borrowers and Guarantors that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd., will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS" "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION" "WHATEVER THERE IS" and "NO RECOURSE BASIS" on 28/11/2025 for recovery of Rs. 46,54,987/- (Rupees Forty Six Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty Seven Only) as on 03/05/2024 with further interest from 04/05/2024 due to Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd., from 1. Mrs. G. Hemalatha W/o. P. Gowtham, No.10, 5th Main, 10th Cross, Mahalakshimpuram Layout, Bangalore - 560 086. Karnataka, Also at: Skanda Enterprises, No.69/4, 1st Floor, East Park Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003 Karnataka. 2. Mr.G.Gagan S/o.P.Gowtham, No.10, 5th Main, 10th Cross, Mahalakshimpuram Layout, Bangalore-560 086. Karnataka.

Possession Status	Physical Possession
Reserve Price	Rs.43,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Three Lakhs Only).
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.4,30,000/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Thirty Thousand Only).
Multiplier Amount	Rs.10,000/- (to improve the bid offer).
Date & Time of Inspection	03/11/2025 to 21/11/2025 - 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM. (Contact No: 1.Mr. Rajesh Kumar T - 99006 79278 2. Mr. Shivukumar Karabasayya Hosamath - 99866 55352, 3.Mr. Sathishkumar S - 994028 6237).
Last Date & Time for Submission of EMD along with requisite documents	27/11/2025 – 1 PM
Date & Time of E-Auction Sale	28/11/2025 - 02.00 PM to 2.30 PM
E-Auction Portal Name	https://www.bankeauctions.com
Communication Address	The Authorised Officer (AHF – LEGAL), Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd., 4th Floor, PHASE – II, No. 769, Spencer Plaza, Anna Salai, Chennai – 600 002.
List of Known Encumbrances & Litigations	Dairy No.2086/2025 filed by Mrs.G Hemalatha -Vs- ESFB, Chennai and pending before the Hon'ble DRT-II, Bangalore.
Property Address	Flat No.301, 3 rd Floor, Neha Premier, 4 th Main Road, NGR Layout, Roopena Agrahara, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore -560068.

Kurnool bus tragedy: Mobile phone cargo may have intensified blaze

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kurnool

SEVERAL crucial details have come to the fore in the probe into the bus fire near Chin-natekuru village in Kurnool district in the early hours of Friday, which claimed 19 lives.

The forensic revealed that the ill-fated bus was illegally carrying a consignment of 234 brand new mobile phones beneath the rear seats of the bus. The preliminary probe revealed that the lithium-ion batteries of the mobile phones exploded due to extreme heat, intensifying the fire. The mobile phone consignment is said to be worth Rs 46 lakh and destined for the e-commerce giant Flipkart in Bengaluru.

“Once the phones began to explode, flames spread rapidly, trapping passengers inside the ill-fated bus,” a forensic official said. Speaking to *The New Sunday Express*, Dr Sai Sudheer, Head of the Department of Forensics, Kurnool Government General Hospital, said the post-mortem was conducted on all 19 bodies on Friday in a temporary lab.

A chemical analysis teams have collected residue samples from bus debris to determine the exact cause of the fire.



AP cracks down on pvt travel operators

The Andhra transport department has launched a special state-wide enforcement drive against private travel operators. Acting on the orders of the Transport Commissioner Manish Kumar Sinha, officials across all the districts conducted extensive inspections of private buses and other commercial vehicles on Friday and Saturday.

289 cases were booked for various violations of transport regulations. Authorities also seized 18 private travel buses and imposed penalties amounting to Rs 7.08 lakh during the operation. The violations ranged from lack of valid documents to safety lapses.

FATAL BUS ACCIDENTS IN LAST DECADE

2013 A bus in Mahabubnagar, Telangana, caught fire after hitting a culvert, resulting in 45 fatalities

2017 A bus in Himachal Pradesh plunged into a canal in Mandya, killing 30 passengers, mostly schoolkids

2022 A sleeper bus in Maharashtra, killing 13 people from a short circuit in the engine

2023 30 people killed in two back-to-back crashes in Doda, Buldhana, J&K

2024 A bus fell into a gorge due to break failure in U'khand, 15 killed

2025 In Kurnool, AP, Bengaluru bound sleeper bus caught fire after hitting a motorcycle killing 19 passengers

Karnataka to launch safety audit of buses

INDRA S @ Bengaluru

WITH survivor accounts revealing the absence of emergency hammers along with illegal conversion of a seater bus into a sleeper, and reports of a consignment of 400 mobile phones aboard the bus that went up in flames in Kurnool, claiming 19 lives, the tragedy has reignited debate on bus safety standards.

Karnataka Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy told *TNIE* that he will issue orders to officials to conduct inspections starting Monday to ensure all private buses and state-run buses have emergency exits and safety tools. The minister said discussions with officials are already underway. He also stressed that operators must ensure emergency doors are operational and make sure that no flammable or explosive materials are carried in luggage compartments. “The passengers tend to do so. All AC buses must have hammers to break windows. Emergency exits have been made mandatory ever since the 2013 bus fire tragedy when I was the then transport minister,” Reddy said.

A top official said, “During every vehicle fitness renewal of the buses, emergency exits and hammers—are checked. Until a vehicle completes eight years, inspections are done every two years; after that, we ensure that most passenger vehicles have valid fitness certificates.” Another official said carrying commercial goods needs stricter enforcement since violations currently incur only a Rs 5,000 fine.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ T'Puram

IN a major breakthrough in the Sabarimala gold theft, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Saturday recovered more than 400 grams of gold from a jewellery shop in Karnataka's Bellari. The gold, allegedly sold by the first accused, Unnikrishnan Potti, to local jeweller Govardhanan, was recovered from Roddam Jewellery owned by the latter.

The gold was allegedly handed over by Potti to Govardhan, who later converted it into gold bars. Potti had allegedly given him 476 grams of gold, sources said. The officials have not yet confirmed whether the entire quantity has been recovered.

The SIT had questioned jeweller Govardhan on Friday, after finding that Potti had sold gold to him. Govardhanan is learnt to have told the SIT that he had no role in the theft and that he was unaware that the gold was acquired through fraudulent means. He allegedly said he first

BIG BREAKTHROUGH

400 gm Sabari gold seized in Ballari

met Unnikrishnan Potti in 2019, when Potti had asked if he could contribute a new temple door. It is indicated that officials are considering making him a witness in the case after seeking legal advice. The store was reportedly closed a few days ago.

The investigation team is also probing the financial transactions between Potti and Govardhanan. Meanwhile, the SIT had also conducted an inspection at Potti's flat in Bengaluru. The team reportedly has also recovered 176 grams of gold and some documents from his rented apartment in Srirampura, sources said.



'Tirupati-model admn required at Sabarimala'

T'Puram: The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) members change every two years, and the absence of a top-level professional management is posing a challenge to the efficient administration of temples and other institutions, said former chief secretary K Jayakumar, who served in various capacities in the board and Sabarimala. Pitching for a Tirupati-model administration at the hill shrine, Jayakumar pointed out the need to plug loopholes in the Sabarimala administration by minimising manual interventions. “On the Tirupati model, a senior IAS officer should be posted at the helm of the board,” Jayakumar said in an interview with *TNIE* as part of 'Express Dialogues'. The senior bureaucrat, who was heading the court-appointed high-power committee for Sabarimala from 2012 to 17, said structural changes should be made in the TDB for proper management of Sabarimala and other shrines. **ENS**

Cyclone 'Montha' heading towards Andhra coastline

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE developing cyclonic system “Montha” over the south-east Bay of Bengal is heading steadily towards the Andhra Pradesh coast, with early forecasts suggesting that north Tamil Nadu, including Chennai, may escape major impact.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the depression, which formed over the southeast Bay of Bengal, is expected to intensify into a cyclonic storm by Monday and further into a severe cyclonic storm by October 28, near

Kakinada, with wind speeds of 90-100 kmph.

Weather models indicate two possible scenarios for Tamil Nadu's rainfall prospects. One, the system moves away towards Andhra directly from the open seas without nearing the north Tamil Nadu coast, the Kancheepuram-Tiruvallur-Chengalpattu-Chennai region will receive only light to moderate rainfall.

Another possibility is that the cyclone edges closer to the north Tamil Nadu coast before curving away. The IMD has advised fishermen along the north Tamil Nadu and Andhra coasts not to venture into the sea.

Messi's Kerala trip postponed

ENS @Kochi

WORLD champion Lionel Messi's much-hyped visit—once promoted as a Rs 200-crore spectacle—has been called off. The Argentine Football Association (AFA) announced that the team would train in Spain before playing their only friendly, against Angola on November 14 and will be in Europe until November 18. Reporter Broadcasting Company MD Anto Augustine cited procedural delays and FIFA's five-hour flight limit as reasons for the cancellation. Messi is expected to attend the fan events planned in Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, and Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is negotiating for the purchase of the Schedule property from **Dr. Venugopal Bangalore Venkatesh S/o. Sri. G.N.Venkatesh and Dr. Soma Venugopal W/o. Sri. B.V. Venugopal**, both are residing at No.44, 4th Cross, 1st Block, 3rd Phase, Kathriguppe Water Tank, BSK 3rd Stage, Kathriguppe South, Bangalore-560 085, claiming to be the owners of the schedule property agreed to sell the same in favour of my client i.e., **Dr. Vishwanath S Hiremath S/o. Shivalingayya G Hiremath, R/At. No.79, CHBS Layout, Vijayanagar BDA Complex, Nagarbhavi Main Road, Bangalore North - 560040.** Therefore any persons, Financial Institutions, Co-parcener of the owners, Legal representatives or any other person interested in the schedule property or opposing the sale of the schedule property to my client in any manner whatsoever shall submit written objections to the undersigned along with the supporting documents within 7 (Seven) days from the date of this publication. Any objections received subsequently shall not be considered and my client would proceed to complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of land together with the building standing thereon comprising of Cellar, Ground Floor, First Floor and Second Floor, being constructed on Site bearing No.1402, (Bharathi Nursing Home) situated at Sarakkal 1st Phase, 41st Main Road, J.P.Nagar 1st Phase, BBMP Ward No.178, with BBMP E-PID No.6095811492, measuring East to West 21.34 Mtrs (70'-0" feet), and North to South 12.19 Mtrs (40'-0" feet), totally measuring to an extent of 260.13 Mtrs (2800 Sq.ft.) and bounded on: East-Site No.1405 and 1406, West - Road, North-Site No.1403, South-Site No.1401.

Office Address:
Chandrasekhar, M.R., Advocate,
No. 2, Ground Floor, AS/NV CENTENARY BHAVAN, K.G Road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560009. Mobile: 9741485539

IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF ADDITIONAL SMALL CAUSES COURT AT BENGALURU

SC No.: 265/2025
Plaintiff: Canara Bank Through its Kalidasa Layout Branch Having its Branch at 3, 1st Cross, 1st Main, Kalidasa Layout, Srirangar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560050 Represented by its Manager Prashanth Kumar Email: id21965@canarabank.com Mob: 9209441134
Defendant: 1. Prashanth M S/o Madhusudan S No. 64, 15th Main, Kalidasa Layout, Srirangar Bengaluru 560050 7676832399
2. Madhusudan S S/o Shivanna 64, 1st Cross, Kalidasa Road Srirangar, Bangalore South 560050 7411125248

PRASHANTH M S/o Madhusudan S

Whereas the plaintiff has filed the above suit against the defendant for recovery of Bank loan for an amount of Rs.1,34,765/- (Rupees One Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Five Only) towards Educational Loan account 195665102053 along with interest at the rate of 11.10% PA upto the date of payment.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Court SCCH 6 in person or through advocate on 31/12/2025 at 11 AM to answer the queries failing which the matter will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on the day of 17th day of October 2025.

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Assistant Registrar
Court of Small Causes, Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff: RAJIV LAW, B RAJASHREE, RAJESH S NAVEEN BM
No.101/45, Venkatadri, 1st Floor, 4th Cross, Hanumanthnagar, Bengaluru-560 019
Mobile: 9652462798

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IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE LXXV ADDL CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE AT BENGALURU

EXECUTION PETITION No. 1897/2024

BETWEEN: Sri. Mohan Kumar Cavale, aged about 61 years, S/o. late. Dr. C. Madhukar, R/At No.406, Brindavana Mansion, No.100, Bul Temple Road, Bengaluru - 560 019. ...
DEGREE HOLDER
AND: 1. Sri. Srinath P. Kedliya, Since Deed by Lr. Hal Pavithra A. Rao, Major in age, W/o. Sri. Srinath P. Kedliya, #102, Brigade Vintage, No.64, Kanakapura Road, Basavangudi, Bengaluru-560 004.

2. Smt. Vatsala Kedliya, aged about 74 years, W/o. Sri. B. Prabhakar Kedliya, Residing at Unit No.106, Brindavan Mansion, No.100, Bul Temple Road, Bengaluru-560 019. ...
JUDGMENT DEBTORS

NOTICE TO THE JUDGMENT DEBTORS BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

JUDGMENT DEBTOR No.1a): Pavithra A. Rao, Major in age, W/o. Sri. Srinath P. Kedliya, #102, Brigade Vintage, No.64, Kanakapura Road, Basavangudi, Bengaluru-560 004.

JUDGMENT DEBTOR No.2: Smt. Vatsala Kedliya, aged about 74 years, W/o. Sri. B. Prabhakar Kedliya, Residing at Unit No.106, Brindavan Mansion, No.100, Bul Temple Road, Bengaluru-560 019

The Decree Holder submits that this Execution Petition is filed to enforce and execute the judgment and decree dated 27.11.2020 passed by this Hon'ble Court (CCH-76) in O.S. No. 5387/2013, whereby the suit filed by the Decree Holder for recovery of money was decreed with costs. You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader on 29/11/2025 at 11:00 A.M. to answer the same, failing which the Execution Petition will be heard and disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, on this 15/10/2025

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristadar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Decree Holder
KUMAR & KUMAR, Advocates
F-113, Central Chambers, 2nd Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore - 560 009

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client, **Smt. Kavitha C J W/o Nagesh Gowda C**, aged about 42 years, residing at No.C 306, 3rd Floor, Inland Estate Apartment, 1st Cross, 4th Phase, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru 560 064 intends to purchase the immovable property more fully described in the schedule hereunder, from its lawful owners and khatedars (Smt. Nagamma D/o late Doddamunishamappa, 2) Smt. Venkamma D/o late Doddamunishamappa, 3) Smt. Radhamma D/o late Doddamunishamappa, 4) Smt. Yellamma W/o late Dathuram, 5) Smt. Vasanthamma W/o Krishnappa, 6) Sri. Somesha S/o late Dathuram

7) Sri. Anand S/o late Dathuram and their family members and all of them are residing at Singrahal Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

Any person's having any claim, right, title or interest in the schedule property may write to the undersigned with documentary proof within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice and if no valid objections are received within the stipulated time, our client will proceed to purchase the schedule property, with assumptions that there are no objections or claims from any persons against our client purchasing the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy No.19/9 measuring 1 acre 2 2/3 guntas, situated at Singrahal Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, and bounded on

East By: Road & land belongs to Mavallipura Earappa West By: Land belongs to S V Manjunath S/o Venkajappa North By: Land belongs to M Raju, South By: Land in Sy No.19/10

Pradeep B.N Advocate
Ground Floor, 3rd Cross, Near Venkatappa Layout,, Shanthenagar, Sri Venkateshwara Theatre Rightside Road, Devanahalli Town 562110

KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE STARS, AND YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND

QuoteExpress
THEODORE ROOSEVELT

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Follow us on @SCRRailwaysIndia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE No: 43/2025 Dt.24.10.2025.

SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS e-Procurement Tender Notice

The Following Tenders Have Been Floated Online. Tenders Are Requested To Visit The Website www.ireps.gov.in And Submit Their Offers Online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD May Be Seen In Website. Offers Submitted Manually Will Not Be Accepted. Offers By Post Will Not Be Entertained. Tender Closing Time Is 14.30 Hrs Of The Due Date Of The Tender. "For All Indigenous Offers, EMD Will Be Accepted Only Via Online System As Available On www.ireps.gov.in."

Tender No. Brief Description

LH255077A Maintenance Kit-03 for wheel set earthing

29251041 Elastic ring (Aclathan ring) as per RDSO Specification N.O. RDSO/2007/EL/SPEC/0053

29251355 All Steel Lock Nuts as per CLW spec.No.CLW/MS/30-89 Alt.4

29251147 End Frame Driving End with Air outlet net for Traction Motor type 6 F R A 6 0 6 8 of WAP7/WAG9Locos

29251100 Modified Single Duct Leather Bellow for Traction Motor WAP7/WAG9Locos

6025PT011 60kg. 1 in 12 over riding curved switches to RDSODrg.No.T-4219

38251024A Bearing Piece Assly

38251014A Knuckle for NON-Transition CBC

Note:-Due dates of Tender Opening: SL No. 01 on dt.06.11.2025. SL.No. 02& 03 on dt.10.11.2025. SL.No. 04&05 on dt.12.11.2025 SL.No.06&07 on dt.19.11.2025. SL No. 08 on dt.24.11.2025

CORRIGENDUM

Tender Notice No.40/2025 dt. 03.10.2025 Tender No.38255013 due on 23.10.2025 Brief:Ram Assembly suitable to 10inch&11 inch BMBS Brake cylinder may be read as Due date 30.10.2025 instead of existing

Beside Above Mentioned Tenders There Are Other Tenders Having Value Above Rs.50 Lakhs.

For Details, Please Visit Railway Website Above.

Principal Chief Materials A1686 Manager/Secunderabad

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

I the undersigned advocate on behalf of my clients Sri M.Hanumappa S/o Late Munappa @ Munyappa, aged about 78 years, Rst.- Yelivuru village, Channarayana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and another have filed the above petition for the death certificate of Late Munappa @ Munyappa S/o Late Hanumappa who died on 02.02.1972 at Yelivuru village, Channarayana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. I any party who have objections may dispute regarding the same can appear before the Hon'ble Additional Civil Judge and JMFC at Devanahalli and the date of hearing on 25.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. in C.No. 41/2025

By Order of the Court, Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanahalli
H.V. Radhamani Smt. Shrutika H.M. Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr.Sagar N S/o Nagaraj R/A # Kenchanakuppe Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanager Taluk and District.

We hereby declare that my client has Lost the below mentioned Original Title Deed Near Bus Stop, Ramanageron 25th October 2025

The Document of title Original partitioned deed with respect to Sy.No.56/5 measuring 1 guntas 1 Kenchanakuppe village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanager Taluk, this above Original Partition Deed bearing Doc., No.3003/2023-24 dated 19/07/2023, registered in the office of the SRO, Ramanager, Further Police commission has been lodged on 25/10/2025 in Online bearing Lost Report No.186857/2025 in this effect which has been duly acknowledged. The above Public Notice is now issued. Any person having claim in possession of the said document may represent to the under signed within 7 days failing which it will be taken that there are no claims.

A.Prashanth, Advocate
No.3755, SAMPRATHI, DESHADAPETE Doodaballapur Town-561203. Mob: 9896628181.

PUBLIC NOTICE

All that piece and parcel of immovable property being a Residential Vacant Site bearing No. 73, coming under the jurisdiction of Bruhal Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (B.M.P.) Katha No. 982 of Yelahanka Sub-Division, situated at KOGU Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 33'-0" feet, North to South: 30'-0" feet, in all measuring 900 Sq. feet, and bounded on the East by: Site No.72, West by: Site No.74 North by: 20 Feet Road, South by: Site No.102

Given under my hand and seal of this court on 23rd October 2025.

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Ministerial Officer
Senior Civil Judge Court, Bengaluru
Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru
Address for Service: V. Shankarappa, Advocate
No.207, Kurubara Sanghal Bump, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY STORES DEPARTMENT

E- AUCTION PROGRAMME Addition Auction of October-2025

On line auction sale through www.ireps.gov.in for disposal of scrap Ferrous, Non-Ferrous Scrap comprising of Rails on line, other P-Way Scrap, M.S. Sheet, Axles, Machines and condemned wagons/coaches will be held as per schedule programme given below:

Depot/Division October-2025 **Ajmer Depot 31.10.2025** **Jodhpur Depot 31.10.2025**

Note: The amendments regarding the date of auction can be seen on IREPS site only. No publication will be done in news paper in future.

1. Indian Railway is selling all the scrap through e-auction. Bidders are requested to get registered for E-auction with www.ireps.gov.in at an early date.

2. Bidders should obtained class- III digital certificate with firm's name before registration. For payment, bidders will have to open an account with SBI (saraal/vyapar) with net banking Rights for depositing earnest money etc.

For any detail please contact concerned officers of depot Dy.CMM's/HQ office stores department, Jaipur.

1365-PS/25

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TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
Phone: 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259. Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in
E-Mail: gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in, mngprpudrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

Online Tenders is invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai - 600008, for the supply of **Bio-Larvicides** from the Licensed Manufacturers having three years Market Standing and holding BIS Certificate (if applicable) issued by the Licensing Authority. Direct Importers holding a valid Import License and experienced in the field for a minimum period of three years are also eligible to participate in this tender.

Sl. No. **Description** **e-Tender Reference** **Tender Floating Period** **e-Tender Submission Duration** **Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids**

1 Online Tender for fixing rate contract for **Bio- Larvicide** for two years from the date of acceptance

e-026/M(P)/BIO-LARVI/ TNMISC/2025, Dated. 27.10.2025

27.10.2025 at 3.00 PM to 10.11.2025 upto 3.00 PM

01.11.2025 at 10.00 AM to 10.11.2025 upto 3.00 PM

10.11.2025 at 4.00 PM

The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at <https://ntenders.gov.in/>. The tender document can also be downloaded at www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in for reference purpose.

DIPR/ 5809 /TENDER/2025

Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs)

IN THE COURT OF THE VIII ADDL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC BANGALORE RURAL DISTRICT AT BENGALURU

EX NO.48/2024

BETWEEN: Sri Narasimha Babu ...Decree Holder
AND: Smt. Jamuna Devi Bhagirthamam Bhari & another ...Judgment Debtor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above mentioned Decree Holder has made a petition to this court under order VII rule 1 and 2 read with section 26 of CPC for the relief of specific performance in favour of the Decree Holder, in O.S.No.95/2012, as per the final judgment passed on 5th of April 2023 the Decree Holder has filed this Execution Petition No. 48/2024 seeking execution of Sale Deed in his favour based on the Sale Agreement dated 15/5/2011 executed by the Judgment Debtors in favour of the Decree Holder herein.

Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear before this court in person or pleader duly instructed on or to show cause against the Decree Holder in O.S.No.95/2012 and on 24/11/2025 at 11am in order Execution 48/2024 filed by the Decree Holder failing

DEAL OR NO DEAL: 200 DAYS OF TRUMP’S TARIFF WHIPLASHES

He did it again. Just before midnight on Thursday, US President Donald J Trump took to Truth Social and declared in capital letters: “All trade negotiations with Canada are hereby terminated.” The reason: the province of Ontario in Canada put out a TV spot using a radio address by former US President Ronald Reagan where he argues against protectionism and says tariffs put jobs and growth at risk.

The next morning, Trump dubbed the ad a “fake”, citing the Reagan Library. He said Reagan “loved tariffs”. The TV spot pierced the soft underbelly of continental history. In October 1987, Reagan and Canadian PM Brian Mulroney signed a free-trade agreement and laid the foundation for what came to be known as NAFTA including Mexico. Trump’s post amped up the reach of the TV spot that aired again on Friday night during the Blue Jays-LA Dodgers World Series baseball match.

It is true that the TV spot used poetic political licence to cherry-pick its message. Reagan did push through the Plaza Accord in September 1985 and got the G5—the UK, France, West Germany and Japan—to sell dollars to enable its depreciation and help US’s export competitiveness. Reagan also imposed tariffs on Japanese semiconductors. But dubbing Reagan a lover of tariffs is a hard-sell given popular perceptions of the Cold War warrior. History shows that typically, US presidents wax in Jeffersonian words and act Hamiltonian.

The Declaration of Independence charged King George “for cutting off our trade with all parts of the world”. But protectionism was both promoted by the likes of Alexander Hamilton and opposed. Thomas Jefferson evangelised free trade, but enacted the Embargo Act of 1807 and the Non Intercourse Act of 1809 banning trade with the UK and France. Trump’s favourite President William McKinley passed the Dingley Tariff Act 1897 to impose 49 percent tariff. Warren Harding pushed the Fordney-McCumber Tariff Act and Herbert Hoover passed the infamous Smoot Hawley Act. In the inter-war period, Woodrow Wilson and


THE THIRD EYE
SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of *The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India’s 12 Digit Revolution, and Accidental India* (shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com)

Franklin D Roosevelt criticised protectionism and JFK proposed the Trade Expansion Act in the Cold War era.

Cut to 2025 and back to Trump’s tantrums. It is over 207 days since Liberation Day. Trump’s claim of a queue of trade deals is unravelling. The u-turn on Canada—the second biggest customer of US farmers—is not the exception. The deal to no-deal whiplash is indeed a Trumpian pattern.

The US is yet to formalise a framework for trade with Mexico, Canada and China—the countries with which it has the largest trade deficits. Talks with Mexico are on, but are complicated as stalled talks with Canada leaves the three-country USMCA in limbo. Negotiations with Brazil, with whom the US enjoys a surplus, is marred by politics. The US-Japan deal is up for review this week. The US expects Japan to invest \$550 billion; Japan sees only 2 percent of it as investment and the rest as loans.

Talks with China present a surreal spectre. In April, the US imposed a 145 percent tariff and China retaliated with 125 percent. Between July and September, the US expanded export bans on semiconductors and China restricted access to rare earths. In October, US imposed port fees on Chinese vessels entering US ports, and China responded in kind. US-China talks have travelled half the globe—Geneva in May, London in June, Stockholm in July, and Madrid in September—and the next round is in Kuala Lumpur this weekend. The consensus view on the likely outcome of a Trump-Xi Jinping meeting is another 90-day extension.

India was among the first countries engaged in trade talks—soon after the visit of PM Narendra Modi to Washington earlier this year. The negotiations stalled post May as the US imposed 25 percent more on India for buying Russian crude. The hypocrisy is stark. There is no penal tariff on others. And the US continues to import from Russia goods such as fertilisers, chemicals, nuclear reactor machinery, low-enriched uranium and palladium.

This week, the US imposed sanctions on Russian oil majors Rosneft and Lukoil, impacting India’s energy security. Germany is trying to get exemptions for Rosneft refineries in its territory. Unsurprisingly, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal asked, “Why single out India?” Following an outreach by Vice President JD Vance and Trump’s Diwali call to Modi, there has been progress even as India cautioned it will not sign a deal at gun-point.

Trump, it could be said, thrives amid chaos. However, there are limitations to the declare-and-defer approach. Trump’s ambition of achieving multiple objectives—ideological, geopolitical, and economic—hasn’t quite panned out. Exhibit A: the tariff on Brazil was intended to bail out Jair Bolsonaro. Exhibit B: the penal levy on India was to get Vladimir Putin to the peace table.

Trump says the US is wealthy again and the stock market stronger because of tariffs. In reality, the tariffs have brought in \$190 million, but barely dented the twin deficits. Sure, the S&P500 is at a record high, but that’s thanks to the 36 percent heft of the Mag7 tech stocks. Within the US, auto giants and retailers laid off workers and the IMF lowered US and global growth estimates.

Trump campaigned as a hawk on trade, but the deal-maker seems at a loss for direction. Worse, he is afflicted by whimsies. The world, meanwhile, must consult Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*—in which Polonius says, “By indirections find directions out”—to divine the Don and decide to deal or not to deal.

THE DIPLOMATIC DANCE OF AVOIDANCE


POWER & POLITICS
PRABHU CHAWLA
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Follow him on X @PrabhuChawla

In the glittering corridors of Kuala Lumpur’s convention centres, where Southeast Asia’s leaders will converge to chart a multipolar future, an empty chair will speak volumes. Prime Minister Narendra Modi—the indefatigable globetrotter who has crisscrossed continents to etch India’s imprint on the world—will address the 47th ASEAN Summit and the 22nd ASEAN-India Summit virtually.

His conspicuous absence has fuelled fervent speculation. Is Delhi dodging a diplomatic dust-up with Donald Trump, the brash American bulldozer barreling back into Asia’s arena? From New Delhi’s vantage, this absence isn’t mere scheduling sleight-of-hand. It’s a calculated sidestep in a high-stakes tango with Washington, where economic edicts masquerade as alliances and trusted ties to Moscow are twisted into treason.

Modi’s ASEAN odyssey has been a hallmark of his hyperactive foreign policy. Since assuming office in 2014, he has attended most ASEAN-India Summits—in person or virtually—transforming a once-peripheral partnership into a powerhouse pact worth about \$120-130 billion in annual trade. But the forum has also become a stage where clashing egos can turn consensus into confrontation.

Two of the world’s most influential leaders—Prime Minister Modi and President Donald Trump of the US—seem locked in a peculiar diplomatic dance of avoidance. Both command nations that claim to be the torchbearers of democracy and free enterprise, yet neither appears willing to confront the other in person. The Kuala Lumpur meeting, where Trump is expected to appear and Modi has chosen to participate only virtually, has become the latest symbol of this un-

easy relationship between two statuesque but increasingly mistrustful leaders.

The Summit, hosted by Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, is a critical forum bringing together the 10 ASEAN member states — Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar — along with dialogue partners such as India, China, Japan, Australia and the US. The theme of ‘Connectivity and Resilience’ underscores its focus on economic recovery, maritime cooperation, and digital integration in the Indo-Pacific. India, through its Act East policy, has long viewed the ASEAN as a central pillar of its regional outreach. That is why Modi’s absence from Kuala Lumpur stands out as a significant departure from his usual diplomatic pattern.

Since 2014, Modi has been a consistent fixture at ASEAN-India and East Asia Summits, attending either physically or virtually. Records from ASEAN and India’s Ministry of External Affairs show regular participation from the 12th Summit in Nay Pyi Taw (2014) through the 21st Summit (2024). He has used these meetings to advance India’s economic integration with Southeast Asia, reinforce strategic partnerships, and position New Delhi as a balancing voice in a region caught between Chinese assertiveness and American unpredictability.

The official justification from New Delhi has been that the Prime Minister’s schedule is crowded with the Bihar assembly elections and post-Diwali engagements. But such reasoning does not withstand scrutiny. A more convincing interpretation lies in the geopolitical shadow cast by Trump’s likely attendance at the summit. Modi and Trump have not met face-to-face since their brief and awkward Washington encounter in early 2025, which ended without a joint statement or a concrete trade deal. Their relationship, once celebrated as warm, has cooled dramatically.

Trump’s acerbic remarks have re-

peatedly embarrassed India. His public boast that he personally “stopped an India-Pakistan war” after a terror attack drew sharp reactions in New Delhi. His claim that Modi privately promised to reduce Russian oil imports was pointedly ignored by Indian officials—signalling rising tensions.

Beyond rhetoric, Trump’s policies have inflicted tangible economic pain. The US has raised tariffs on Indian exports—in some categories reaching as high as 50 percent—citing “unfair trade practices”. The energy sector has also been caught in the crossfire. India’s dependence on Russian crude, which accounts for nearly one-third of its total oil imports, has collided with Washington’s sanctions regime. Trump’s decision to target Russian oil majors Rosneft and Lukoil has thrown

Indian refiners into uncertainty, complicating payments and insurance. His insistence that nations buying Russian oil are “indirectly funding aggression” has been aimed squarely at New Delhi.

Meanwhile, the so-called “reset” diplomacy between Delhi and Washington has yielded little. The gap between rhetoric and reality has widened into a visi-

ble gulf. Within this strained atmosphere, Modi’s physical appearance alongside Trump at Kuala Lumpur would have been fraught with risk. A single impulsive remark by the American President could have dominated global headlines and undermined India’s carefully calibrated position on trade and energy. By staying away, Modi shields himself from an unnecessary diplomatic spectacle. His virtual participation ensures that India’s voice is present—but not exposed.

Yet, this approach has a personal cost for the Prime Minister. Modi’s political identity has been built on the projection of confidence and global omnipresence. To retreat from a major summit where he has always been a visible force invites questions about India’s diplomatic nerve. In foreign policy, absence can sometimes speak louder than attendance.

Predictably, Modi has been targeted

by opposition parties. They claim that Modi, who once stood shoulder to shoulder with global leaders, is now avoiding them. They point to his silence on Trump’s repeated exaggerations and accuse him of bending to external pressure. For a leader who built his image on muscular nationalism and global assertiveness, the perception of evasiveness is politically costly.

Modi’s virtual attendance at the ASEAN-India Summit can thus be read as a temporary tactic in a larger diplomatic dilemma. It avoids immediate embarrassment but highlights a growing unease in India’s foreign policy posture. His absence denies India the chance to strengthen its partnerships with key Southeast Asian leaders such as Anwar Ibrahim and Ferdinand Marcos Jr. These personal interactions often yield more than formal speeches. By missing them, India forfeits a measure of influence in a region central to its long-term interests.

This episode also underscores the erosion of predictability in India-US relations. Trump’s slapdash style has unsettled allies and antagonised competitors alike. His economic nationalism and transactional diplomacy have replaced cooperation with confrontation. Modi, on the other hand, has chosen restraint and balance. Their contrasting temperaments have turned once-celebrated camaraderie into cautious detachment.

But the world can ill afford a prolonged silence between the leaders of two major democracies. Global trade, energy security and regional stability all depend on credible coordination between Washington and New Delhi.

The time may soon come when Modi will have to move beyond tactical prudence and confront Trump’s bullying style. India, the world’s largest democracy, cannot afford to appear intimidated by the richest one. Leadership, after all, is not measured by the number of summits attended, but by the courage to stand firm when the stage is most uncertain.

Modi’s virtual presence may keep him out of Trump’s reach for now, but it also keeps him out of the centre of the world’s most important conversation. The question is not whether Modi will meet Trump, but when he will once again lead the charge to assert India’s voice where it matters most—in the real arena of global diplomacy, not behind a digital curtain.

TO BELIEVE OR NOT: FIGHTING DISINFORMATION


OPINION
GEETHA RAVICHANDRAN
Former bureaucrat and author, most recently of *The Spell of the Rain Tree*

To believe or not to believe—that is the question confronting most of us in these times of information inundation. As news and opinions are constantly streamed across digital platforms, information is morphed into misinformation and disinformation. Misinformation is inaccurate or false information; but when weaponised with intent, it becomes disinformation. Malinformation, which is taken out of context with a motive to malign, is also on the rise.

Disinformation, on the other hand, targets groups of people with the intent to manipulate and deceive. It can affect situations as diverse as electoral results and armed conflicts. It also distorts the debate surrounding significant issues like climate change and public health. Of late,

it has gained velocity and influence, even carving out alternate realities. Troll and bot farms pushing particular narratives have hijacked many a public discourse.

Rumours and propaganda flourish in times of crisis. However, they have rarely had the kind of traction seen today. There was a time they could be debunked with facts and logic. But with the rise of real-time communication, online broadcasting, the use of artificial intelligence and algorithmic biases, digital media has become an echo chamber where false and misleading information is amplified.

In recent memory, we experienced misinformation and disinformation thriving during the pandemic. Playing on anxiety, inauthentic remedies were peddled and the efficacy of vaccines questioned. The origin of the virus is still a subject of disinformation campaigns involving state players. This vulnerability is also seen during times of war. A disinformation war inflicts damage on the minds of people. The deep penetration of such campaigns in war zones ensures that citizens are ready to be fodder for the cannon.

In democracies across the world, elections are no longer merely ideological fights. Election integrity has become a subject of debate and targeted attacks. The concerned authorities need to guarantee transparency by laying bare the processes and workings of the system. For the devil is in the details. Pre-bunk-

ing, a strategy to provide factual information before the onslaught of disinformation, could serve as an inoculation against malicious campaigns.

Climate action initiatives are also extremely susceptible to misinformation and disinformation as economic interests are directly involved. Voices expressing denial of climate change have emerged among the politically powerful.


Digital media is an echo chamber where false information can be amplified. Information can be cherry-picked to promote faith-based narratives. Reasoned rebuttal can only go some way in countering it

This has not merely polarised communities, but resulted in cutting down of funding for climate-positive action. Many corporates have resorted to greenwashing. This is an area of concern as it deepens economic inequalities and exploitative practices. An example of a considered response is the Global Initiative for Information Integrity on Climate Change launched by Unesco and Brazil.

A Telangana doctor’s recent campaign

against the claim of sugary beverages masquerading as oral rehydration supplements showed how sustained rebuttal can bring about change. The paediatrician waged a lonely battle against beverages claiming to be ORS that are harmful to children suffering diarrhoea. This month, the Food Safety and Standards Authority banned the use of ‘ORS’ in beverage trademarks or branding.

Micro-targeting of groups based on online behaviour helps amplify disinformation. Recognising this threat, several countries have evolved collaborative models where civil-society groups, government, tech and media companies work together in identifying and debunking disinformation. It is also necessary to appreciate that disinformation exploits cognitive biases. It cherry-picks facts that it reinterprets to promote faith-based narratives. Rebuttals rely on a fact-based approach and adopt a sober tenor. Encouraging diverse narratives and fact-checking can reduce the spread.

Future research may lay bare the underlying networks of disinformation including the mechanics of echo chambers. Precise metrics may emerge to measure their impact on individuals and society.

Till such time, the words of W B Yeats will ring loud, “The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity.” Passivity abets the growth of disinformation. *(Views are personal)*

QUOTE CORNER

There is a huge difference between a change in public opinion and policy changes that actually affect Israelis. And we have not really seen the latter... I agree with everyone who believes this shift in global public opinion is important, but what it means is so often overstated. The US is arming Israel, and the Europeans are Israel’s No 1 trading partner. It’s embarrassing to see how many people are calling this a peace deal.

Nathan Thrall, Pulitzer-winning author, in an interview with the *New Yorker*

It is my fault, not yours, that I was dissatisfied with your mediocre mindset. I apologise for being unhappy that you give yourselves so much credit for doing so little.

Ali Tareen, owner of Multan Sultans team, in a taunting video message to the Pakistan Cricket Board about its troubled T20 league

I don’t know if we’ll be coming back to Australia.

Rohit Sharma after his 168-run stand with Virat Kohli at Sydney

 **MAILBAG** **WRITE TO**
letters@newindianexpress.com

Bus caution

Ref: *20 charred in Kurnool (Oct 25)*. As a frequent inter-city traveller by sleeper bus, I was shocked to learn about the tragic accident. I prefer this mode of travel as it saves time and is cheaper. It is also relatively easier to book a ticket in a sleeper bus at short notice. One lesson I have learnt now is to stick to travelling in buses of reputable companies that are more likely to have safety measures like emergency exits.

N Rama Rao, Chennai

RTOs responsible

The tragedy was caused by the negligence of the driver, the bus owner, and several regional transport offices. This bus was converted to a sleeper coach without adopting the required safety measures. The RTO authorities of different states issued the owner notices to pay fine and set right the lapses. But how could the RTOs of so many states allow

this bus to travel? Not only this one—there are so many buses travelling without proper safety measures. I request the Centre to intervene.

G K Chandrashekhar, Tumakuru

Alumnus link

Ref: *Power of education diplomacy (Oct 25)*. I felt elated knowing that my schoolmate had adorned a top position at our central bank. It was all the more memorable to meet him after many decades at the alma mater. The power of education is such that one can never forget the sweet memories, whatever be the positions one goes on to achieve in later years. Even heads of nations visiting their colleges has a revitalising effect on them.

Ramalingeswara Rao, email

Remembering Piyush

Ref: *The adman who spoke to India in its own language (Oct 25)*. The contribution of Piyush Pandey, a pioneer of creative advertisement in India, to the world of commerce is also invaluable. On the other hand, his ‘Mile sur mera tumhara’, a song for na-

tional integration, was unparalleled in its heart-touching creativity. Adieu to the genius.

Krishnaprasad S, Palakkad

Power pose

Ref: *American sanctions on Russian oil majors a hard blow to parry (Oct 25)*. It’s no surprise that India’s largest buyer of Russian oil, Reliance, is ready to comply with the restrictions. Time and again it’s iterated that Trump and Modi are friends, so it should seem to the world that India is under America’s clutches. Every Indian should stand by the government to smash Trump’s intention of making India submissive.

Rajakumar Arulanandham, Tirunelveli

Cleaning Vembanad

Ref: *Study recommends cap on houseboats in Kerala’s Vembanad lake (Oct 25)*. Apart from what the report mentions, monitoring and control can be made effective by digitising all houseboat operations on the lake. The distributed waste management infrastructure should be provided with suffi-

cient capacity to pump liquid wastes from the houseboats close to the docking areas.

Kutty Sankaran, Thrissur

Polio vigilance

Ref: *India on alert as polio cases rise in Pak, Afghan (Oct 25)*. India has been polio-free for years, but the rising cases in Pakistan and Afghanistan is a cause for concern. The health authorities must step up vaccination drives, especially in remote regions where awareness is low. Vigilance and timely action are essential to prevent any resurgence in India.

Shammas Kottathara, email

Surrogacy suffering

Ref: *Illegal surrogacy racket busted in Kochi (Oct 25)*. The revelation of women being exploited through illegal surrogacy practices is highly distressing. It is imperative that the authorities enforce stringent measures to regulate assisted reproductive technologies and ensure the protection and dignity of the women.

Hasna K P, Kannur



Mahua Moitra @MahuaMoitra
BJP MP Briji Lal calls Dalit sanitation workers in Lucknow 'terrorists' & 'Bangladeshis'. Same MP sent by BJP to visit Bengal twice. Where's your outrage @BJP4Bengal



Alok Sharma @Aloksharmaaic
Wake up at 4 AM, delete 2 voters in 36 seconds, then go back to sleep - that's how the vote theft happened!?



Amit Malviya @amitmalviya
From the RJD platform, an announcement — if Tejashwi Yadav becomes the CM, they will end the Waqf law. The law will remain, but the intention to loot the lands is clear

SC to hear suo motu case pertaining to stray dogs on Oct 27

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

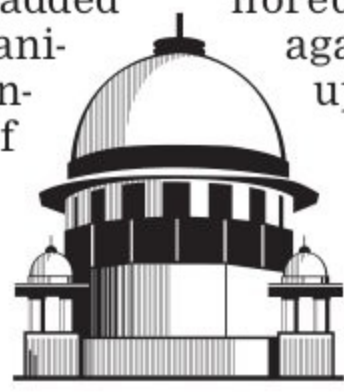
THE Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on October 27, a suo motu case pertaining to stray dogs. A three-judge special bench, headed by Justice Vikram Nath, and comprising Justices Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria, will hear the matter.

Suspending its earlier August 11 order, the SC on August 22, directed that the stray dogs be released but after proper sterilisation and immunisation barring those infected with rabies or being aggressive.

"Feeding of stray dogs at public places is prohibited and appropriate action would be taken against people for doing so. Unregulated feeding not allowed as it creates problems to common man," the bench said.

Stressing the need for better facilities for complaints against violations, the court added that no individual/organisation can cause any hindrance in discharge of duties by officers.

The NGOs were asked to pay ₹25,000 each and that amount to be used for crea-



tion of facilities.

Increasing the ambit of the case beyond the confines of Delhi-NCR, the bench directed that all states and UTs be made parties in the matter.

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and other lawyers appearing for the petitioner NGOs and others, had moved the SC and sought a direction for staying the August 11 order, saying there was not enough shelter homes to house stray dogs.

Sibal had questioned the order and asked what the MCD had done so far, "What have they been doing over the years? Have they built shelter homes? Since they have not been sterilised, dog numbers increased," he slammed the MCD.

Abhishek Manu Singhvi, senior lawyer for one of the petitioners, also had agreed on the contentions of Sibal and said the apex court's order ignored previous directions against en masse picking up of stray dogs.

After the August 11 order, there was an outrage among the dog-lovers. Later the special bench was formed to hear the matter.

Print media ad rates may go up by 27%, notification after Bihar polls

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

AS part of its major initiatives to safeguard conventional media, the government has proposed to increase advertisement rates for print media by 27%. According to the government sources, all preparations are in place and an announcement in this regard is expected next month after the Bihar assembly election results. Packages are also being revised for television channels.

"We have taken a decision to increase the advertisement rates by 27%; it was demanded for all the print media. Soon after Bihar elections, a notification will be issued. This is part of the government's efforts to strengthen conventional media," said sources.

The advertisement rates were last revised in 2019 when the ministry of information and broadcasting increased them by 25%. Before that, an increase of 19% was announced in 2013.

Meanwhile minister of information and broadcasting (MI&B) Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said that the government would soon introduce regulatory reforms to protect conventional media especially



radio given the transition taking place in the media sector.

"We are working on different levels...The whole transition from conventional media to a new form of media has to be handled in a very careful way. It's affecting people's livelihood. It's affecting the incomes of the traditional, conventional news houses, be it TV, radio or print... For example, in the radio industry, there is a huge regulatory overhand. The government is working on removing regulatory barriers, wherever they exist," said the minister.

Vaishnaw further informed that the ministry will improve the television rating system for reasonable revenue from government advertisements.

MHA plans to dismantle gangster-terror link in jails

Inmates running criminal networks to be transferred to other prisons

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has directed the law enforcement agencies to work out an elaborate plan to break the networks of gangster-terrorist operating from different prisons across the country, officials said on Saturday.

They have been asked to adopt an "out-of-the-box strategy" to disrupt local nodes of such nexus, it added.

A plan is being worked out to re-locate such inmates who continue to run criminal or terror-linked networks from within jails, as this is aimed at severing their existing communication and influence chains, they said.

First, the law enforcement and intelligence agencies have been tasked to jointly identify such high-risk inmates in coordination with the state police, the officials said, adding: "Once identified, such elements will be shifted to jails located in states or regions where they have no connections or linkages."

The plan is being closely monitored and supervised by senior functionaries of the MHA, as according to the offi-



cials, one officer each from the intelligence and central probe agencies are going to be designated as nodal entities to coordinate the plan's execution.

In the security circles it believed that the move would help them break entrenched networks that often operate from prisons, enabling coordination between criminal gangs and terror outfits across states.

According to the sources, the plan's primary focus is jails in north India, particularly situated in Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir.

Last month, the NIA detained several suspects during a huge multi-state crackdown on the terrorist-gangster-drug smuggler nexus, connected with

"listed terrorist" Arsh Dalla and many dreaded gangsters. A total of 53 locations were raided during the day-long operation in Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Chandigarh.

The NIA in a statement had said, "The investigations have revealed that the conspiracies under its probe were being hatched in prisons of different states and were being executed by an organised network of operatives based abroad. Notable among such crimes include the killing of Maharashtra builder Sanjay Biyani, mining trader Mehal Singh and international Kabaddi player Sandeep Nangal Ambia in Punjab last year."

Congress demands PAC probe into LIC, insurance major rubbishes charges

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Congress on Saturday sought Parliament's Public Accounts Committee to investigate the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) following a foreign daily report that the public sector company made huge investments in Adani Group's securities after they took a beating in the markets. However, the LIC denied the allegations as "false, baseless, and far from the truth".

Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh alleged the savings of LIC's 30 crore policyholders were "systematically misused" to benefit the corporate house.

The opposition party's attack came after the Washington Post, citing internal documents, reported that Indian officials drafted and pushed through a proposal to invest about ₹33,000 crore of LIC funds in various Adani Group companies in May 2025.

Markets regulator SEBI cleared Adani Group of stock manipulation allegations made

by US short-seller Hindenburg Research, saying fund transfer between group companies did not fall foul of any regulation.

In a statement posted on X, the LIC said the allegations levelled by the Washington Post that its investment decisions were influenced by external factors are "false, baseless, and far from truth".

"No such document or plan as alleged in the article has ever been prepared by LIC, which creates a roadmap for infusing funds by LIC into Adani group of companies. The investment decisions are taken by LIC independently as per Board approved policies after detailed due diligence," the LIC said.

The Department of Financial Services or any other body does not have any role in such decisions, it said. LIC has ensured the highest standards of due diligence and all its investment decisions have been undertaken in compliance with extant policies, provisions in the Acts and regulatory guidelines, in the best interest of all its stakeholders, it added.



Link between diabetes & brain health under lens

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

IT is a known fact that diabetes affects multiple body parts, including the heart, kidneys, eyes, nerves, and feet. But does it influence cognitive decline and neurological diseases, including dementia and Alzheimer's disease?

To understand how diabetes affects the brain, a landmark international research collaboration – the first in India – was announced on Saturday, aiming to uncover early markers of brain ageing in people with diabetes.

The Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF), Chennai, joined forces with the Centre for Brain Research (CBR) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru and the UK Dementia Research Institute (UK DRI) to come out with advanced research on the relationship between diabetes and brain health.

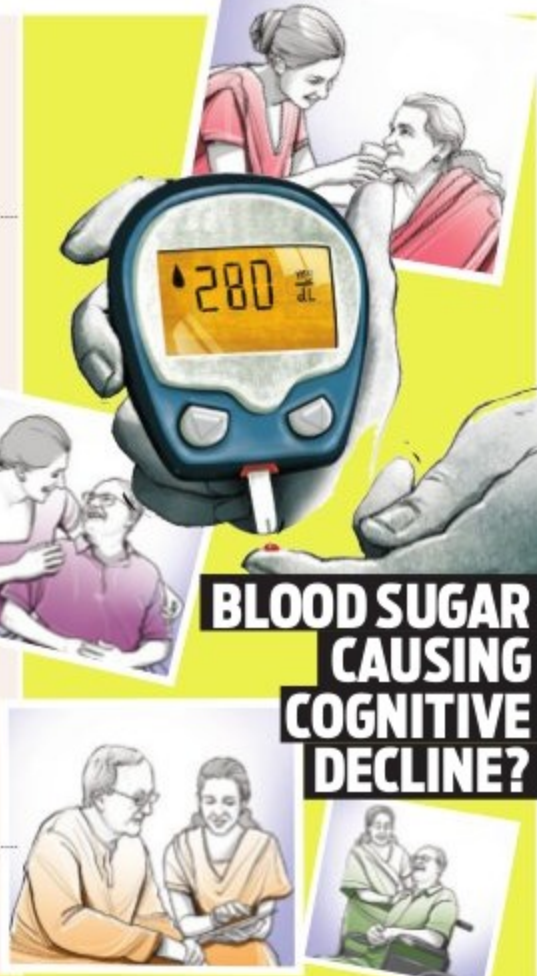
Speaking with this paper, Dr V Mohan, Chairman of the MDRF, Chennai, said, "The new research can help understand why dementia occurs earlier and faster in people with diabetes". "It can also show whether, by good control of diabetes, we can reverse some of these changes. By studying people

Aims to explore the intricate relationship between diabetes and brain health
A ICMR-INDIA study found prevalence of type 2 diabetes and prediabetes of **11.4%** and **15.3%**, respectively
Connection between diabetes and the brain, particularly dementia less known

KNOWN COMPLICATIONS OF DIABETES: DIABETIC RETINOPATHY, DIABETIC NEPHROPATHY, HEART ATTACKS, AMPUTATIONS, AND OTHERS

Generalised and abdominal obesity also high at **28.6%** and **39.5%**, respectively

The new research can help understand why dementia occurs earlier and faster in people with diabetes. —Dr V. Mohan, Chairman of the MDRF, Chennai



with diabetes and age-matched non-diabetics, we will be able to ascertain role of these biochemical markers for early detection of dementia," he added.

He highlighted that there is definitely a relationship between diabetes and brain health. "With our decades of work in diabetes and metabolic health, and by joining hands with eminent neuroscientists and dementia researchers, we

hope to uncover mechanisms that will ultimately improve the quality of life for millions worldwide," Dr Mohan added.

The commonly known complications of diabetes are diabetic retinopathy, an eye condition that affects people with diabetes, diabetic nephropathy or diabetic kidney disease, dysfunction of one or more peripheral nerves. It is also linked to heart attacks, amputations, and

other complications.

"There is evidence to show that dementia can worsen diabetes. How? Because a person who has dementia tends to pay less attention to their diet or exercise. These can affect diabetes. Similarly, diabetes can affect dementia either through neurodegeneration or it can affect the blood vessels. Both hyperglycemia and hypoglycemia, are associated with dementias," he elaborated.

"Diabetes is increasingly being recognised as a risk factor for cognitive decline and dementia. Through this partnership, we will uncover early markers of brain ageing in individuals with diabetes," said Dr RM Anjana, President, MDRF.

Prof. Siddharthan Chandran, Director and Chief Executive, UK Dementia Research Institute, said, that the influence of metabolic disorders on brain function is a huge challenge.

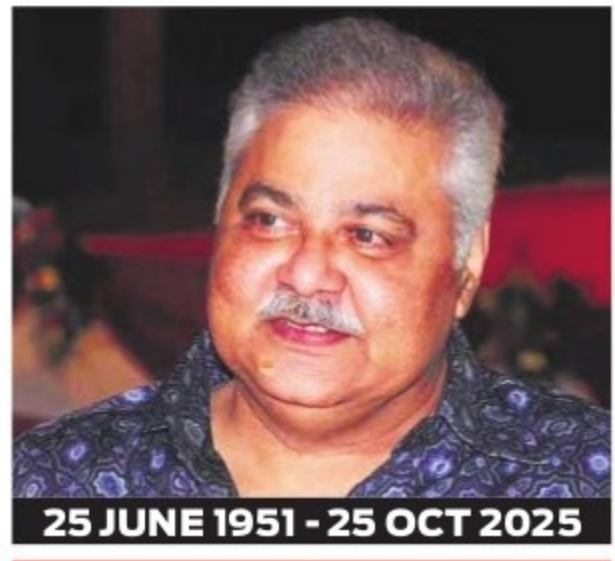
Prof. KVS Hari, Director, Centre for Brain Research (CBR), IISc Bengaluru, added, "CBR's focus on brain ageing and neurodegenerative diseases aligns perfectly with this initiative. It will help integrate data to identify key pathways linking diabetes and cognitive health."

Satish Shah of 'Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro' fame dies of kidney ailments at 74

AVINASH RAMACHANDRAN @ Chennai

VETERAN actor Satish Shah, known for his comedy performances in films and television, passed away due to kidney-related complications in Mumbai. He was 74. The actor was battling with kidney-related ailments for a while, and recently underwent a kidney transplant.

A comedy stalwart of the Hindi film industry, Satish was active from the late 70s, starring in small roles in films like Arvind Desai Ki Ajab Dastaan (1978) and Gaman (1979). It was in 1982 that Satish starred in his breakthrough role of a corrupt commissioner D'Mello in Kundan Shah's iconic Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro. His comic flair, especially while playing the role of a dead body, cemented his place in the annals of Hindi cinema history. There was no looking back for Satish, who went on to exhibit not just his comic timing but also other facets of his acting in over 250 films. While Satish predominantly worked in Hindi films, he made brief sojourns in Mar-



His comic flair, especially while playing the role of a dead body, cemented his place in the annals of Hindi cinema history.

athi and Kannada cinema, too.

Even when notching up impressive film credits, Satish, an alumnus of the Film and Television Institute of India, also worked in landmark television serials in the 80s, 90s, and 00s, proving to be an actor who kept up with the evolving times. If Indravadhan Sarabhai from the sitcom Sarabhai vs Sarabhai is considered the crown jewel of his television career,

he played equally impressive characters in television serials like Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi (1984-86) and Ghar Jamaai (1997-98). He was also a judge in the popular comedy reality show, Comedy Circus (2007-08).

On the film front, he showcased his versatility in films like Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa, Ardh Satya, Bhagwan Dada, Mohan Joshi Hazir Ho, Hero Hiralal, Hum Aapke Hain Koun, Hero No 1, Judwaa, Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, and Saajan Chale Sasuraal. He was part of multiple films headlined by the biggest stars of the 90s and 00s, including Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Govinda, Anil Kapoor, and Aamir Khan. He was last seen on the big screen in Sajid Khan's Humshakals (2014).

Satish returned to play Indravadhan in the second season of Sarabhai vs Sarabhai, titled Sarabhai vs Sarabhai: Take 2 in 2017. He was also part of Sunil Grover-fronted ZEE5 series, United Kachche (2023).

Satish Shah is survived by his wife and designer Madhu Shah. His last rites will take place on Sunday.

VIRGINIA GIUFFRE'S LAST WORD

WHEN POWER PREYS, AND THE WORLD WATCHES

PARAMITA GHOSH

Her story of abuse and silence has gripped the West. It forces uncomfortable parallels—about privilege, complicity, and how societies, across faiths and borders, fail their most vulnerable.



MANDAR PARDIKAR

N the West, few stories have unsettled the powerful quite like that of Virginia Giuffre.

At seventeen, she was drawn into the orbit of Jeffrey Epstein — the financier whose name has since become shorthand for wealth, manipulation and impunity. She would later accuse him and his associates of sex trafficking, and in doing so, expose how power often thrives on silence.

Her memoir, *Nobody's Girl: A Memoir of Surviving Abuse and Fighting for Justice* (Alfred A. Knopf, out October 21), co-written with journalist Amy Wallace, is being published six months after her death. Giuffre died by suicide this April in Australia, aged 41. Her family said she had been "a lifelong victim of sexual abuse and sex trafficking," but that she "fought till the end to make the world listen."

The book has reignited debate across Western media — in newsrooms, book clubs, and talk shows — about privilege, accountability, and the systems that protect the powerful. Giuffre's story has forced a re-examination of not just Epstein's crimes, but the complicity that allowed them to continue. Epstein's world, she reminds readers, was not hidden; it was sustained in plain sight, through the silence of those who benefited from it.

Giuffre writes of being trafficked to influential men — including a member of the British royal family. Her most publicised allegation involved Prince Andrew, whom she accused of sexual abuse when she was 17. He has denied wrongdoing, and

the civil case was settled in 2022 without admission of guilt. Yet in the UK and the US, the case continues to echo — not for its legal outcome, but for what it revealed about moral blindness and entitlement.

Even after Epstein's conviction as a sex offender in 2008, his social circle barely shrank. He continued to entertain the powerful, a sign that social immunity often outlasts scandal. As Giuffre writes, "Power protects itself first."

For Indian readers, the resonance is unmistakable. It recalls the silence of often surrounds cases of abuse

closer home — whether in temples, madrasas, convents, or state-run hostels.

From Kathua to Kerala, the details may differ, but the pattern is painfully familiar: the powerful are shielded, the victims are doubted, and institutions close ranks to protect their own. Justice, when it comes, is often too little and too late.

Giuffre's memoir belongs to that global ledger of women and children who dared to name their abusers and were made to fight alone. Her story is not just about America's moral failure — it is about every society's uneasy relationship with power, and the discomfort of facing what we'd rather not see.

And it leaves behind a question that lingers long after the last page: When will a woman's tragedy stop being just her story — and start being ours?

EXPRESS READ

CJI meets Bhutanese King and Prime Minister

Chief Justice of India B R Gavai has held meetings with Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and discussed avenues for enhancing cooperation between the judiciaries of the two nations, according to an official statement. The CJI, who is on an official visit to Bhutan, held a meeting with Wangchuck on Saturday. He met Tobgay on Friday. "During these meetings, the Chief Justice discussed avenues for enhancing cooperation between the judiciaries of the two countries and reaffirmed the commitment to strengthening India-Bhutan relations," said a statement. It said the CJI further expressed the Indian judiciary's readiness to support the Bhutanese judiciary in areas of technology integration, capacity building, and knowledge exchange.

● RJD, Cong together field 28 Muslims out of 204 candidates ● 'People now have an alternative' ● BJP says 'jungle raj' to return if Oppn wins



RJD, which is contesting 143 seats, has fielded 18 Muslims and BJP has not fielded a single candidate from the community | PPT

Bihar reality check: Only 35 Muslims get tickets

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

A political slugfest has erupted in Bihar ahead of assembly polls over the RJD and other parties allegedly meting out shabby treatment to Muslims in distribution of tickets.

Parties have fielded only 35 Muslim candidates even as Muslims constitute nearly 17.7% of the state's population. The RJD and Congress, two major allies of the INDIA bloc who claim themselves to be well-wishers of Muslims, have together fielded 28 Muslim candidates.

While the RJD, which is contesting 143 seats, has fielded 18 Muslim candidates, remaining 10 have been fielded by Congress, which is contesting 61 seats. The CPI-ML (Liberation) has fielded two Muslim candidates. Viakssheel Insaan Party led by Mukesh Sahani, another ally of the INDIA bloc, has fielded none.

In the NDA camp, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) has fielded four Muslim candidates out of 101 seats it is contesting this time. One ticket has been allotted to Muslim candidate by Union minister Chirag Paswan.

led Lok Janshakti Patty (Ram Vilas). LJP (RV) is contesting 29 seats. In 2020 election, RJD had fielded 15 Muslims out of 144 candidates it had fielded. Congress had given tickets to 12 Muslim candidates out of 70 seats it contested.

NDA's allies were less generous in distribution of tickets to Muslims as BJP did not give any ticket to Muslims. The JD (U), which had not named any Muslim candidate in its first list, finally gave four tickets to Muslims. Muslim representation in the Bihar assembly has fluctuated from time to time.

Between 1990 and 2020, it averaged around 8%. The 2020 assembly had 19 Muslim MLAs, representing 7.81% of the 243-member House. In 2015, the number reached 24 (9.87%), one of the community's highest levels. Declines in representation have followed changes in party nominations and alliances.

Political analysts observed that Muslims got disenchanted with Congress after the 1989 Bhagalpur communal riots and also the party's role in controlling communal flare-ups during LK Advani's Ram Rath

Yatra. They said RJD chief Lalu Prasad grabbed the opportunity to provide his party as an alternative before

Muslims following their disenchantment with Congress. Muslims also having no other option switched over to the RJD fold in droves as the party built its electoral fortunes primarily on a platform of social justice, pitching for empowerment of OBCs, Dalits and Muslims.

On secular parties not going the whole hog in distribution of tickets to Muslims, the analysts said these parties become cautious in apprehension of polarisation of votes against them in the event of showing too much generosity in distribution of tickets to them.

Union Minister Chirag Paswan wrote on 'X', "In 2005, my father late Ram Vilas Paswan Ji, even sacrificed his party to make way for a Muslim chief minister, but you (RJD) did not support him then. RJD was not ready to give a Muslim CM in 2005, and in 2025 they are still unwilling to give either a Muslim CM or a Deputy CM. If you remain a vote-bank ally, how will you gain respect or true participation?"

No need to fear any leader or party anymore, PK tells voters

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

JAN Suraj Party (JSP) founder Prashant Kishor on Saturday said that the people of Bihar now have a genuine alternative and they should not vote out of fear of any political leader or party.

During his election campaign, the political activist urged voters not to support PM Narendra Modi or Bihar CM Nitish Kumar or Lalu Prasad out of fear, adding that political parties exploit fear of BJP to secure votes.

Reaching out to the Muslim voters in particular, Kishor said, "If you are a Muslim, fear Allah and choose the best option." He clarified that Muslims often vote in favour of RJD out of fear of BJP. But now the situation has changed, he asserted.

He said that despite giving multiple chances to Lalu, Nitish or Modi, the people have not seen fundamental improvements in their daily life. "I urge voters to consider whether they want a government which is genuinely accountable to people, or a system governed by bureaucracy or the alleged lawlessness, or a 'jungle raj' of past administrations. Jan Suraj represents this much-needed change. Established parties will soon come to an end as people will embrace change," Kishor said.

His party has fielded candidates in all the 243 Assembly seats. Last week, Kishor alleged that BJP leaders forced his party's three candidates to withdraw their nominations as they apprehended defeat in the upcoming elections.

JSP nominees from Danapur, Brahmpur and Gopalganj withdrew their nominations.

Shah raises poll pitch, says every infiltrator to be detected & deported

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

WITH less than two weeks left for the Bihar polls, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday went full throttle against INDIA bloc for opposing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the poll-bound state and said that every infiltrator would be detected, deleted and deported to their countries.

Addressing back-to-back rallies in Khagaria, Munger and Nalanda, Shah alleged that Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi took out a yatra in Bihar to shield foreign infiltrators. Shah described the Congress leader's 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in the state as 'Ghuspathiye Bachao Yatra'. He said that the Assembly election will decide whether the state would return to 'jungle raj' or remain on the path of development.

"This election is one that will decide whether to bring back 'jungle raj' to Bihar, or the rule of law and development. Do you want 'jungle raj'? If Lalu-Rabri comes to power again, 'jungle raj' will also come with him," he told the gathering.

On the contrary, Shah said, if the NDA forms its government after the election, a developed Bihar would be recognised throughout the country. "Use your votes wisely," he appealed to the people in Khagaria.

Taking a swipe at RJD chief Lalu Prasad and his son Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, Shah said that they were trying to present a wrong picture before people on law-and-order situation in Bihar. "The fact is that crime rates have reduced significantly under Nitish Kumar's leadership," he added.



In response to Tejashwi's questions over law-and-order situation during the NDA regime, Shah said that during Nitish's 20 years governance compared to 2005, murders have decreased by 20%, robberies by 80%, loot by 80%. In the last 20 years, not a single heinous crime occurred," he asserted.

On the contrary, during RJD rule, murders, robberies, loot, kidnapping and heinous crimes had become a regular affair. Industrialists left Bihar out of fear of being abducted. The RJD rule pushed the state to backwardness. "Under Nitish's leadership, the NDA freed Bihar from 'jungle raj', and above all freed the state from Maoist activities," he remarked. Earlier, Tejashwi had claimed that more than 75,000 murders took place in Bihar during 20-year governance NDA.

The senior BJP leader also questioned the Opposition Mahagathbandhan's ability to develop Bihar. "Can they develop Bihar? Rather, they will indulge in corruption and rob the state exchequer. "Only Narendra Modi at the Centre and Nitish Kumar in Bihar can develop the state, he added.



SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI

Our correspondent in Maharashtra

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Fadnavis pushes for image makeover

Determined to consolidate support across caste and community lines, Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis is stepping up his outreach efforts, with an eye to the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls due in 2029. Teams comprising senior BJP & RSS functionaries and sect leaders formed under Fadnavis will target over 7,000 local fairs listed by the Revenue Department as well as village-level weekly markets in the state. This initiative is of a piece with Fadnavis' 'DevaBhau' ad campaign. We will have to wait until 2029 to find out if these efforts will yield electoral dividends.



Two weeks on, no flight services at airport

Even though it has been over two weeks since PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Navi Mumbai International Airport with great fanfare on October 8, there is no word on when commercial flight services would commence. Since the nodal agency, CIDCO, has yet to finish infrastructure-related works around the airport, the services are not likely to begin before December. It begs the question—why was there any hurry for the PM to inaugurate it if much of the work was pending? Besides, the locals' demand to name the airport after Agri-Koli leader DB Patil remains unfulfilled.

Sapkal snubs Opposition delegation, sparks buzz

Maharashtra Congress party chief Harshwardhan Sapkal may keep a low profile, but he never shies away from sending out a message, either through his presence or absence. He raised eyebrows earlier this month by staying away from an Opposition delegation that met with the state election panel to address alleged irregularities in the voter list ahead of local body elections. The delegation comprised state political heavyweights like Sharad Pawar and Uddhav & Raj Thackeray. Sapkal, who avoided sharing space with the MNS chief, knows that the Congress always has his back!



The arrested foreign students at the Bopal Police Station in Ahmedabad | EXPRESS

After receiving a tip-off about availability of alcohol at the event, police personnel purchased passes and entered the venue as guests in civil dress — Ahmedabad Rural SP Omprakash Jate

13 foreign nationals among 20 held as cops raid Gujarat rave party

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

POLICE raided a farmhouse on the outskirts of Ahmedabad city and arrested 20 people, including 13 African nationals, for allegedly consuming liquor during a late-night party.

The raid yielded 49 liquor bottles, nine hookahs, and paraphernalia worth nearly ₹10 lakh. Party passes sold between ₹700 and ₹15,000 were traced back to WhatsApp groups, hinting at a well-oiled underground network, police said on Saturday. "What unfolded inside resembled a nightclub scene: flashing lights, a live DJ, non-neg counters, and red tables littered with broken hookahs and half-filled glasses of booze," said a police official.

The so-called 'Hot Grabber Party' was organised by a Kenyan national named John at Zephyr Farm near Shilaj. Farmhouse owner Milan Patel was among those arrested, with police probing his role in hosting the illegal gathering as liquor is banned in the state, Ahmedabad Rural SP Ompra-

kash Jate said. "A formal complaint under the Gujarat Prohibition Act has been registered. We are tracking all organisers and suppliers," Jate said, adding that two local bootleggers—Anant Kapil and Ashish Jadeja—were among those arrested.

A preliminary probe revealed the liquor party was organised in the garb of a get-together meant for African students currently studying in various colleges and universities in Gujarat, where the sale and consumption of liquor is banned, the SP said. "After receiving a tip-off about availability of alcohol at the event, police personnel purchased passes and entered the venue as guests in civil dress," he said.

Among those detained were students from Gujarat University and other local institutes along with nationals from Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Comoros and Madagascar. All were taken to Bopal Police Station after mandatory medical checks.

Officials say that if student involvement is proven, legal consequences could extend to their educational institutions.

1 held for Maha doctor rape, cop on run

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

POLICE on Saturday arrested a software engineer in connection with the 26-year-old woman doctor's suicide case in Maharashtra's Satara district, while the main accused, suspended police sub-inspector Gopal Badane, is absconding.

A team from Phaltan police arrested Prashant Bankar, son of the woman doctor's landlord and one of the two men she had named in a suicide note written on her palm, from Pune, police officials said. Bankar, accused of mentally harassing the victim and now facing abetment of suicide charge, was later produced before a Satara district court which sent him to

Accused sent to police custody till October 28

A team of Phaltan police arrested Prashant Bankar, son of the doctor's landlord, from Pune. Bankar, who has been accused of mental harassment and abetment to suicide, was later produced before a Satara district court, which sent him to police custody till October 28.

The doctor, hailing from Beed district and posted at a government hospital in

Satara, was found hanging in a hotel room in Phaltan town on Thursday night. In the suicide note, she alleged that police sub-inspector Badane raped her on multiple occasions. A case of rape and abetment of suicide was registered against the duo in Phaltan in Satara

district, police said. Bankar's family members refuted the allegations, saying the techie was framed in this case.

The suicide note claims she was not only sexually assaulted by the police officer but also pressured by powerful people, including an MP and his aides, to issue fake medical fitness certificates for the accused. When she refused, the harassment intensified.

Snow leopard count doubles in 4 yrs in Himachal, 2 new species spotted

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

MUCH to the delight of the wildlife enthusiasts, the highly endangered snow leopard population in Himachal has almost doubled, increasing from 44 individuals in 2021 to 83, according to a recent survey.

The survey was jointly conducted by the Nature Conservation Foundation and the Wildlife Wing of the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department. For the first time, two new species—pallas's cat and woolly flying squirrel—were also spotted.

As per the second state-wide snow leopard assessment survey report, titled 'The Status of Snow Leopard in Himachal Pradesh 2025,' the species is strongly present across high-altitude landscapes, particularly in Spiti, Pin Valley, Upper Kinnaur and Tabo, which recorded the highest densities.

The survey identified 44 adult snow leopards from 262 independent detections across the six sites. In high occupancy areas, the study found 12 individual snow leopards in Upper



Spiti with 90 detections, 6 in Tabo with 46 detections, 8 in Pin with 35 detections, and 9 in Kinnaur with 58 detections.

In the low occupancy stratum, Lahaul-Pangi had 8 individual snow leopards from 32 detections, and the Great Himalayan National Park (GHPN) had 1 individual snow leopard from 1 detection, the report read.

The survey found snow leopard density ranging from 0.16 to 0.53 individuals per 100 km².

Using large-scale camera trapping across six representative sites covering nearly 26,000

km², researchers photographed adult leopards 262 times leading to an estimated state-wide count of 83 adults, excluding cubs.

"At the state-level, our SECR analysis resulted in the estimated snow leopard density of 0.35 (95% CI: 0.23 - 0.53) per 100 km² and abundance of 83 (95% CI: 67 - 103) adult snow leopards in Himachal Pradesh. In high-occupancy strata, the density and abundance were measured at 0.46 (95% CI: 0.37 - 0.57) snow leopards per 100 km² and 59 (95% CI: 48 - 73) snow leopards, respectively," it added.

Syrup deaths: Regulator blocks prosecution info

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

INDIA faced intense international heat after over 100 children died due to contaminated cough syrups made by three pharma companies in The Gambia and Uzbekistan.

However, after the initial outrage, international alerts, and announcements of probe in 2022-2023, India's drug regulator has refused to share the action taken against the pharma companies that were at the centre of the international storm, a latest RTI query revealed.

Not only did the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) refuse to reveal the details of the investigation and the subsequent prosecution against the three firms—Maiden Pharmaceuticals, Marion Biotech Pharmaceuticals and Fourrts (India) Pvt Ltd—it also cited a section

of the RTI Act to stonewall information.

While Maiden was linked to the deaths of over 60 children in The Gambia, Marion was blamed for the deaths of 18 in Uzbekistan. Both syrups had dangerous levels of the toxins—diethylene glycol (DEG) and ethylene glycol (EG). Fourrts was flagged in 2023 for containing high DEG and EG.

In its reply, CDSCO, Chennai, said on Fourrts, "no such information is available." Besides, "The information sought by the applicant is exempted under Sec 8 (1) (d) (g) (h) of the RTI Act 2005." CDSCO, Ghaziabad, said: "...stop production order, suspension, cancellation of licenses/product licenses etc. have been taken." No word on prosecution. "That's the reason why the pharma companies continue to flout the laws," RTI activist Dr K V Babu said.

Stonewalling RTI query

RTI activist Dr K V Babu said, "CDSCO refused to share the status of investigation and prosecution against the 3 pharma companies." It shows there is "no visible action or prosecution by the authority against them."





Russian strikes kill four, injure 20 in Ukraine as Zelenskyy seeks patriots

Air force says they downed 50 of 62 drones, four of nine missiles launched in overnight attacks

KYIV

RUSSIAN missile and drone attacks on Ukraine overnight into Saturday killed at least four people and wounded 20, officials said, and prompted fresh pleas from Ukraine's president for Western air defense systems.

In the capital, Kyiv, two people were killed and 13 were wounded in a ballistic missile attack in the early hours of Saturday, Kyiv's police said. A fire broke out in a non-residential building in one location, while debris from intercepted missiles fell in an open area at another site, damaging windows in nearby buildings, Ukraine's State Emergency Service wrote on the message app Telegram.

"Explosions in the capital. The city is under ballistic attack," Mayor Vitali Klitschko wrote on Telegram during the onslaught. In the Dnipropetrovsk region, two people were



Smoke billows from a warehouse that caught fire following a Russian attack | AP

killed and seven wounded, acting regional Gov Vladyslav Haivnenko said, adding that apartment buildings and private homes were damaged in the strikes. Ukraine's air force said Russia launched nine missiles and 62 drones, of which four missiles and 50 drones were intercepted.

In Russia, the Defense Ministry said its air defenses shot down 121 Ukrainian drones over Russia overnight.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Saturday that such attacks intensify Ukraine's need for Patriot defense systems. "It is precisely because of such attacks that we

pay special attention to Patriot systems — to be able to protect our cities from this horror. It is critical that partners who possess relevant capability implement what we have discussed in recent days," he wrote in English on X. "America, Europe and the G7 countries can help ensure that such attacks no longer threaten lives," he said.

Zelenskyy is hoping Ukraine can purchase 25 Patriots from the U.S. to fortify its air defenses, particularly in cities.

Zelenskyy on Friday urged the United States to expand its sanctions on Russian oil from two companies to the whole sector, and appealed for long-range missiles to hit back at Russia. Zelenskyy was in London for talks with two dozen European leaders who have pledged military help to shield his country from future Russian aggression if a ceasefire stops the more than three-year war. **AP**

Don's Asia return, East Timor's entry mark key ASEAN summit

KUALA LUMPUR

SOUTHEAST Asian foreign ministers held talks Saturday ahead of a landmark ASEAN summit that will formally welcome East Timor as the bloc's 11th member and mark US President Donald Trump's first trip to Asia since returning to the White House.

The meeting serves as a curtain-raiser for the annual Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit which starts on Sunday in Kuala Lumpur, followed by two days of high-level engagements with key partners, including China, Japan, India, Australia, Russia, South Korea and the U.S. Leaders are expected to focus on regional security, economic resilience, and maritime disputes with US tariffs and shifting global trade patterns looming large over discussions. Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan cautioned his counterparts that "the turbulence of global politics will surely continue to cast a long shadow over our region in the years ahead." "As the international landscape becomes increasingly dominated by contestation rather than consensus, division rather than dialogue, ASEAN finds itself at a cross-



ASEAN foreign ministers and (last from right) Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn pose for a group photo in Kuala Lumpur | AP

roads," he said.

"Our space for neutrality and centrality is narrowing, particularly in areas such as trade, technology and regional security arrangement," he said. "We must continue to act as the speakers and not the spoken for." A separate leaders summit of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership 'the world's largest trade bloc encompassing ASEAN and five partners: China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand

' will convene for the first time since 2020. Its revival comes as regional economies seek to stabilise trade flows at a time when Washington's tariff measures have rattled markets and tested decades of globalisation. Apart from Trump, Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Japan's newly inaugurated Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi are among more than a dozen leaders attending the ASEAN summit and related meetings. **AP**

ASIA MATTERS

SCIENCE HUB REOPENS WITH NEW FACILITIES

The National Science Centre, which reopened on 1 October, features new facilities and educational modules for a more engaging visitor experience, *The Malaysia Star* reported. A highlight is the Obskura XR Gallery, which provides a fully immersive, kinesthetic experience for visitors by using artificial intelligence and virtual reality.

Rubio meets families of captives, vows return of all hostage bodies

JERUSALEM

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio vowed Saturday to secure the return of all deceased hostages still held in Gaza, as he met with the families of two captives during his visit to Israel.

"We will not forget the lives of the hostages who died in the captivity of Hamas," Rubio said on X.

"Today I met with the families of American citizens Itay Chen and Omer Neutra. We will not rest until they—and all—remains are returned," he said, hours before wrapping up his three-day visit to Israel.

The Israeli campaign group, the Hostages and Missing Families Forum, welcomed Rubio's remarks.

"Thirteen hostages need to come home. Thirteen families need closure," the group said on X, thanking the US secretary of state.

"Please don't stop—until the last hostage is released," it added.

Chen, a dual Israel-US national and a sergeant in the Israeli army, was working at the border with the Gaza Strip when

Hamas and its allies attacked on October 7, 2023.

The military announced his death five months later in March 2024.

It said Chen, 19 at the time of the attack, died in combat and his body was taken to Gaza.

Neutra, 21 at the time of the attack and also a US-Israeli national, was a volunteer soldier killed on October 7.

Raised in New York, Neutra came to Israel to experience the country of his parents, his mother Orna Neutra told AFP in November 2023. He later enlisted for military service as most young Israelis do.

Under the US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, which came into effect on October 10, all 20 living hostages have been freed by Palestinian militants.

Remains of 15 deceased hostages have also been returned to Israel, while the bodies of 13 others remain in Gaza.

In exchange, Israel has released nearly 2,000 prisoners, mostly Palestinians, along with dozens of Palestinian bodies, as part of the deal. **AFP**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client Sri. CHANDRAIAH S/o. R.K. Anantha rajaiah, aged 75 years, residing at No.15, Maruthi Layout, RMV 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560 092., is the Owner of the property bearing Sy.No.91 situated at Madeshwara Village, Doddaballapura Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, was purchased under the Registered sale deed dated 19/05/2007-08, registered in Book-1, Document No. DBP-1-01155-2007-08, stored in CD. No DBPD115, in the office of Doddaballapura Sub-Registrar, at Doddaballapura, from S.K. Narayanan S/o late G.N.Nair. The aforesaid Original Document has been lost/misplaced while travelling by bus from Hebbal to Nagashetty hall on 01/10/2025, he has made his best efforts were in vain. Further he lodged a police complaint in this regard on 24/10/2025, if anyone found the aforesaid original document, kindly contact within 7 days from the date this publication at the office address given below.

Gayathri. T.N., Advocate,
No.15, Maruthi Layout, RMV 2nd Stage, Bengaluru -560 094. Ph. No. 98454 54447.



IN THE COURT OF THE 1st ADDITIONAL CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE BEGALURU RURAL AT BEGALURU Co.Mis. 1864/2025

Petitioner: 1. Smt. Parvathamma, W/o Late. Munikrishnappa, aged about 46 years, 2. Naveen S/o Late Munikrishnappa, aged about 26 years, 3. Pavan, S/o Late Munikrishnappa, aged about 24 years, 4. Sri. Srinivas, S/o Late Anjanappa, aged about 45 years, 5. Rajkumar, S/o Late Anjanappa, aged about 44 years, 6. Manjunath, S/o Late Anjanappa, aged about 40 years, 7. Lokesh, S/o Late Anjanappa, aged about 39 years, 8. Munirajulu, S/o Late Anjanappa, aged about 34 years, 9. Shashikumar, S/o Late Anjanappa, aged about 29 years, all the petitioners. R/o Konadasapura Village, Bidarhali Hobli, Bengaluru East Tq, Bengaluru-560 048. **-Vs-**

Respondent: The Tahasildar, Registrar of Birth & Death, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru.

NOTICE

Whereas, the Petitioners named above has filed the above Petition seeking direction to the registrar of the date of death of the deceased who is the Grand father of the Petitioner No.1 & 4 to 9, Late Grand Father of the Petitioner No. 2 & 3 by name "NYATHAPPA S/o Late HANUMANTHAPPA" who died on 13/09/1970 at Konadasapura Village, Bidarhali Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru- 560049. If there are any persons having claim, they may appear before Court in person or through Pleader on 12/12/2025 at 11.00 A.M failing which the petition will be disposed according to Law. Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 24/10/2025

By order of the Court, Sheristadar, Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Petitioners: Rajesh. V
56, Chandrodya, Katammallu Village, Virgonagar Post, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru- 560 049.

QuoteExpress

NEVER COMPLAIN AND NEVER EXPLAIN

BEJUANIM DISRAELI

Putin's baby push struggles amid Russia's shrinking and aging population

MOSCOW

FOR a quarter century, President Vladimir Putin has faced the specter of Russia's shrinking and aging population.

In 1999, a year before he came to power, the number of babies born in Russia plunged to its lowest recorded level. In 2005, Putin said the demographic woes needed to be resolved by maintaining "social and economic stability."

In 2019, he said the problem still "haunted" the country. As recently as on Thursday, he told a Kremlin demographic conference that increasing births was "crucial" for Russia. Putin has launched initiatives to encourage people to have more children — from free school meals for large families to awarding Soviet-style "hero-mother" medals to women with 10 or more children.

"Many of our grandmothers and great-grandmothers had seven, eight, and even more children," Putin said in 2023. "Let's preserve and revive these wonderful traditions. Having many children and a large family must become the norm."

At first, births in Russia grew with its economic prosperity, from 1.21 million babies born in 1999 to 1.94 million in 2015.

But those hard-won gains are crumbling against a backdrop of financial uncertainty, the war in Ukraine, an exodus of young men and opposition to immigration. Russia's population has fallen from 147.6 million in 1990 — the year before the USSR collapsed — to 146.1 million this year, according to Russia's Federal Statistics Service. Since the 2014 illegal annexation of Crimea, it has included the peninsula's population of about 2 million, as well as births and deaths there, in its data. The population also is significantly older. In 1990, 21.1% was 55 or older; government data said. In 2024, that figure was 30%. **AFP**

UCO BANK
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

BANNERGHATTA ROAD BRANCH
44, 4th Cross, 4th Main, NS Palya, Bannerghatta Main Road, Bangalore-560076. E-mail: banner@ucobank.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE OF E-AUCTION SALE (For Immovable Property)
(In terms of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002)
Whereas the Authorized Officer of the Bank has issued a Demand notice under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 and thereafter in exercise of powers under Section 13(12) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 has taken possession of property mortgaged to Bank under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT 2002. The undersigned in the capacity of Authorized Officer has decided for sale of the property to public by E-auction and invite bids from the intending purchasers for purchase of immovable property mentioned hereunder on "AS IS WHERE IS" & "AS IS WHAT IS" basis.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower/s / Guarantor.	a) Date of Demand Notice b) Date of Symbolic Possession c) Present outstanding	a) Date & Time for inspection of the property b) Bid submission last date c) Date & Time of E-Auction	a) Reserve Price b) EMD Amount c) Bid Increase Amount
1	1. Mr.Shirisha MCS (Applicant) S/o Mr. Sashikanth Marandapalli Chakravathy, No.23, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 3rd Stage, Kattinguppe, Bangalore-560085. 2. Mrs. Vibha Manohara (Co-applicant) W/o Manohara MCS, #379, 9th Main, 13th Cross, B Block, Chitrakoota, JP Nagar, Mysore-570008. 3. Keerthi K (Guarantor) W/o Mr. Shirisha MCS, No.23, 1st Floor, 1st Main,3rd Stage, Kattinguppe, Bangalore-560085	a) 23.04.2025 b) 01.08.2025 c) Rs.81,63,769/- plus interest and other charges	a) 27.11.2025 Between 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM b) As per BAANKNET guidelines c) 28.11.2025 Between 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM	a) Rs.1,01,70,000/- b) Rs.10,17,000/- c) Rs.25,000/-
2	Mrs. Dhanalakshmi Shekhar, No.16, PID-23-42-60 (New PID-No.58/A, 6th C Cross, 3rd Main, 1st Floor, Prakash Nagar,2nd Stage Bangalore-560021.	a) 18.06.2025 b) 22.09.2025 c) Rs.60,43,996/- plus interest and other charges	a) 27.11.2025 Between 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM b) As per BAANKNET guidelines c) 28.11.2025 Between 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM	a) Rs.74,70,000/- b) Rs.7,47,000/- c) Rs.25,000/-
3	Mrs.Mamatha S W/o Cheluvuraja, G-1 Shivganga Hill View Apartment, JCHN layout, Near Golden Penarum, 80 Feet Road, Gubalata, Bangalore-560061.	a) 31.01.2025 b) 03.05.2025 c) Rs.66,28,346.16/- plus interest and other charges.	a) 27.11.2025 Between 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM b) As per BAANKNET guidelines c) 28.11.2025 Between 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM	a) Rs.95,08,000/- b) Rs.9,50,800/- c) Rs.25,000/-

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: SCHEDULE - 'A' PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of Residential Property bearing No.20/1B,2,3,4 & Site No.304 situated at Dattagalli, Next to MUDA Employees Housing Layout, Mysore, total measuring 3547.78 Square Meters & Bounded on: East by: Road & MUDA Layout, West by: Private Property, North by: Private Property, South by: Property of VDB & Road.
SCHEDULE - 'B' PROPERTY: 1033.51 Square Feet of Undivided Share, right, title, interest and ownership in schedule 'A' PROPERTY.
SCHEDULE - 'C' PROPERTY: A residential property- apartment bearing Flat No. B-9, First Floor, Block-3,BHK apartment building known as "Sri Sai Yoga Residency" measuring in total of 1775 sqft of super built up area along with exclusive car parking area of basement & the apartment is Bounded by: East by: 6 meters Drive way, West by: Flat No. B-10, North by: 6 meters Drive way, South by: Lift Corridor.
In the Name of: Mr.Shirisha MCS S/o Sashikanth Marandapalli Chakravathy

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: SCHEDULE - 'A' PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of Residential Property bearing No.20/1B,2,3,4 & Site No.304 situated at Dattagalli, Next to MUDA Employees Housing Layout, Mysore, total measuring 3547.78 Square Meters & Bounded on: East by: Road & MUDA Layout, West by: Private Property, North by: Private Property, South by: Property of VDB & Road.
SCHEDULE - 'B' PROPERTY: 768.58 square Feet of Undivided Share, right, title, interest and ownership in schedule 'A' PROPERTY.
SCHEDULE - 'C' PROPERTY: A residential property- apartment bearing Flat No. A-1, PID No.216834 in Ground Floor in Block-01, in 3BHK apartment building known as "Sri Sai Yoga Residency" measuring in total of 1320 sqft of super built up area along with exclusive car parking area of basement & the apartment is Bounded by: East by: Flat No A-2, West by: Flat No A-13, North by: Open to Sky, South by : Open to Sky.
In the Name of: Mrs.Dhanalakshmi Shekhar W/o Mr.Sunil Kumar V

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: SCHEDULE - 'A' PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of Residential Property bearing No.20/1B,2,3,4 & Site No.304 situated at Dattagalli, Next to MUDA Employees Housing Layout, Mysore, total measuring 3547.78 Square Meters & Bounded on: East by: Road & MUDA Layout, West by: Private Property, North by: Private Property, South by: Property of VDB & Road.
SCHEDULE - 'B' PROPERTY: 965.96 square Feet of Undivided Share, right, title, interest and ownership in schedule 'A' PROPERTY.
SCHEDULE - 'C' PROPERTY: A residential Apartment property apartment bearing Flat No. A13, PID No.217195 in Ground Floor, Block 4, in 3 BHK, Apartment building known as "SRI SAI YOGA RESIDENCY" measuring in total of 1659 Square Feet of Super Built Up Area along with exclusive Car Parking Area at basement & the Apartment is Bounded by: East by: Flat No. A1, West by: Flat No. A12, North by: Open to Sky, South by: Open to Sky.
In the Name of: Ms.Mamatha S W/o Mr.Cheluvuraja

A/C No.19840210000731, IFSC Code : UCBA0001984, UCO Bank, Bannerghatta Road Branch, Bangalore.Tel:080-26683915
Details of known encumbrances: Not Known
1) Sale shall be subjected to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Detailed terms and Conditions of the sale is available/ Published in the following websites/ Web Portal: <https://baanknet.com/education-psb/home>
2) The Properties are being sold on "As is Where is Basis" and "As is What is Basis" and "Whatever There is Basis"
3) The Particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officers, but the Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or Omission in this proclamation.
4) The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website. <https://baanknet.com/education-psb/home> on date 28-11-2025 between 11:00 A.M. to 05:00 P.M
5) It is open to the Bank to appoint a representative and make self-bid and participate in the auction.
6) The final decision is vested with Authorised Officer.
Date: 24.10.2025, Place: Bengaluru
(For Further details contact: 7073173989)
Authorised Officer, UCO Bank

Reliance, Facebook to make initial investment of ₹885 cr in AI venture

Reliance has incorporated a new firm to develop enterprise AI in collaboration with Meta

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

META Platforms, Inc.'s Facebook Overseas will hold 30% interest in the AI venture floated by billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL). The Reliance Intelligence will hold the remaining 70% in Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Ltd.

The Reliance Intelligence, a wholly-owned subsidiary of RIL, and Facebook will jointly invest an initial amount of ₹855 crore. In a filing to the exchanges, RIL said that Reliance Intelligence on Friday incorporated Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Ltd (REIL), which will be engaged in developing, marketing and distributing enterprise AI services. This collaboration in the field of AI follows the strategic relationship that began in April 2020 when Mark Zuckerberg's Facebook invested \$5.7 billion (₹43,574 crore) in Jio Platforms, making it the largest minority shareholder.



That investment gave Facebook a 9.99% stake in Jio.

"Reliance Intelligence Limited (Reliance Intelligence), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company (RIL), has on October 24, 2025 incorporated Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Limited (REIL). Reliance Intelligence will invest an amount of ₹2 crore towards initial subscription of 20,00,000 equity shares of ₹10 each," said RIL's exchange filing.

It added, "REIL, incorporated

in India as a wholly owned subsidiary of Reliance Intelligence, will become the joint venture company as per the amended and restated joint venture agreement) with Facebook Overseas, Inc. (Facebook), a wholly owned subsidiary of Meta Platforms, Inc. (Meta). REIL will be engaged, *inter alia*, in developing, marketing and distributing enterprise AI services."

The JV was first announced at RIL's Annual General Meet-

ing in August. Ambani, Chairman and MD of RIL, had said that they will democratise enterprise grade AI for every Indian organisation — from ambitious SMBs to blue chip corporates, enabling them to innovate faster, operate more efficiently, and compete confidently on the global stage.

Powered by Meta's open-source Llama models, the joint venture will provide a secure, full-stack Enterprise AI Platform-as-a-Service, enabling organisations to customise, deploy, and manage generative AI models for various business functions, including sales and marketing, IT development and operations, customer service, finance, and more.

This partnership combines Meta's powerful open-source AI models with RIL's strong digital infrastructure to deliver enterprise-grade AI at affordable price points, particularly targeting Indian enterprises and small-to medium-sized businesses (SMBs).

DRAFT RULES

Banks can fund up to 70% of M&A value: RBI

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

THE Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued draft guidelines to allow banks to fund India Inc to acquire strategic equity stakes, in full or in part both, domestic and overseas, in listed companies as a strategic investment that creates long-term value rather than for short-term financial restructuring. From April 2026, banks can lend up to 70% of the acquisition value, with the remainder amount coming in from the acquirer's own equity. In a draft circular issued late on Friday, the central bank, however, put a caveat that acquiring companies are listed entities with satisfactory net worth and have been profitable for the previous three years.

In another draft circular, it has also proposed lower risk weighting for non-banks to lend to infrastructure projects. The RBI has proposed to cap the aggregate exposure of a bank to such acquisition finance at 10% of its tier-1 capital and for the acquirer, the maximum debt can be 70% of the deal value with the remaining 30 per cent to be funded by the acquiring company through its equity contribution. The rules propose bank financing for public sector divestments, and IPO subscriptions. The circular said, banks can lend the acquiring company directly or its step-down special purpose vehicle (SPV), set up specifically for buying the target entity. Banks must have a policy on acquisition finance, defining the caps, terms and conditions of the eligibility of borrowers, security, margin, risk management and monitoring norms etc.

Kotak Bank Q2 profit falls 3% on higher provisioning

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

PRIVATE sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank on Saturday reported a 2.7% year-on-year fall in its standalone net profit at ₹3,253 crore in the September quarter due to a massive spike of 43.5% in provisions.

However, the bank's net interest income (NII) grew and also saw jump in net advances by 16%.

The bank said that its provisions for bad loans and fresh slippages soared 43.5% to ₹947 crore from a low ₹660 crore a year ago, while fresh slippages jumped to ₹1,629 crore from ₹1,812 crore but recoveries and upgrades were lower ₹688 crore. The key profitability metric net interest margin fell to 4.54% from 4.65%, the bank said on Saturday in its exchange filing.

Similarly, it said the cost of funds stood at 4.70% and did not offer the comparative number.

More importantly, despite an improvement in NPAs, the bank saw its fresh slippages spooking the overall numbers during the quarter, jumping to ₹1,629 crore from ₹1,812 crore while recoveries and upgrades were ₹688 crore in the



second quarter, up 25% on-quarter. This had the overall provisions soaring by 43.5% to ₹947 crore from a low ₹660 crore a year.

NPA improved

Gross NPAs improved to 1.39% from 1.49% and net NPAs also inched down to 0.32% from 0.43% in September 2024 and the provision coverage ratio stood at 77%.

However, fresh slippages spooked the overall numbers during the quarter which jumped to ₹1,629 crore compared to ₹1,812 crore while recoveries and upgrades were Rs 688 crore in the second quarter, up 25% on-quarter.

Overall advances grew much faster than the industry at 16% and deposits at 14%. Among

loan products, the credit card portfolio declined 14% on-year to ₹12,444 crore, retail micro-credit too fell 41% from a year ago to ₹5,725 crore — both these segments have been biggest pain-points for the bank for some quarters now and also for a few others like RBL and Axis Bank.

The home loans and loans against property business rose 18% on-year to ₹1.38 trillion, corporate loans also rose 18% to ₹1.09 trillion and business banking assets rose 20% to ₹47,825 crore, taking the net advances up 16% to ₹4,62,688 crore.

Average total deposits grew to ₹5,10,538 crore, up 14% and average current deposits grew to ₹70,220 crore, up 14%, while the average fixed rate savings deposits grew 8% to ₹1,13,894 crore and the average term deposits jumped 20% to ₹3,11,889 crore, the bank said, adding of the total deposits, the low-cost Casa ratio stood at 42.3, helping the credit to deposit ratio to print in at 87.5%.

Standalone return on assets was 1.88% and the return on equity at 10.38%. The capital adequacy ratio, under the Basel III norms, stood at 22.1% and the core equity tier 1 ratio at 20.9%.



Decision to invest in Adani Group companies taken independently: LIC

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

LIFE Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Saturday denied all allegations of infusing money into the Adani Group, as reported by *The Washington Post*. The state-run insurer called the claims "false, baseless, and far from the truth," asserting that no such document or plan as re-

ported by the US daily exists within the organization.

"No such document or plan as alleged in the article has ever been prepared by LIC, which creates a roadmap for infusing funds by LIC into the Adani group of companies. The investment decisions are taken by LIC independently as per Board approved policies after



detailed due diligence. The Department of Financial Services or any other body does not have any role in such decisions," the state-backed insurance company stated in its rebuttal issued after the news report was published by the US news media.

The Washington Post, in its report published on October 24, had alleged that the Indian gov-

ernment directed nearly \$3.9 billion (around ₹33,000 crore) from LIC into companies owned by billionaire Gautam Adani at a time when his businesses were facing financial and legal challenges. The report also claimed that the government had an internal plan outlining LIC's roadmap to support the Adani Group, an

assertion the insurer has categorically rejected.

LIC said its investment decisions are taken "independently as per Board-approved policies after detailed due diligence," emphasising that neither the Department of Financial Services nor any other government body has any role in its investment process.

NEWSCOPE

NATURAL DIAMOND REGAINS ITS LOST SHINE

GURBIR SINGH

IN past few years, synthetic diamonds, also known as lab-grown diamonds (LGDs), have been the new flash in the pan. They have threatened natural diamonds, hit the production and bottom lines of mining giants such as De Beers and Argyle, and almost completely destroyed India's old diamond cutting and polishing industry.

Now, things are again changing. In recent months, lab-grown diamonds (LGDs) are losing demand rapidly due to oversupply and with consumers preferring to shift back to the appeal of the natural stones. This was confirmed recently by World Diamond Council President Feriel Zerouki in an interview with *Reuters* in Luanda.

"If you look at the latest trends, lab-grown diamond prices are crashing. This is impacting consumer confidence in lab-growns," Zerouki said. A collapse in lab-grown diamond prices on the back of increased production in China and India, has started to undermine confidence in the synthetic gems, he added. Industry analysts told *Reuters* the synthetic diamond bubble seems to have burst with some claiming that prices of one-carat and two-carat lab-growns had fallen as much as 96% since 2018.

This was corroborated by Paul Zimmisky, a diamond trade analyst, who said the lab-growns were currently selling at a 90% discount to similar natural diamonds — when in 2015 they were just 10% cheaper compared to natural diamonds. Experts have been warning the price of LGDs could drop so low that they become fashion accessories that no longer compete with diamonds, especially in the key bridal market.

Impact on India

In India, it is both good and bad news. The bad news first. Surat and many other such roughs polishing and cutting hubs, saw small and medium units diversifying to produce synthetic diamonds as international markets changed gear post 2022.

But the synthetic diamond market has not kept pace. In 2024, exports of polished LGDs shot up 50% in volume to 6.45 million carats, compared with 4.28 million carats in 2022. However, in value terms, earnings dropped 45%. This year, both volume growth and value realisation have plummeted.

Anecdotal reports from Surat point to heavy investments being made to set up 6,000 synthetic diamond reactors em-

ploying 40% of the original cutting and polishing workforce. Workers' unions since June are pointing out that nearly four lakh employees in the 'synthetic' units in Surat are facing delays in payment of wages or lay-offs.

Blood diamonds

However, those who expect the natural diamonds industry will proportionately benefit from the decline of 'lab-growns', may be in for a disappointment.

Global synthetic diamond production reached 17.1 billion carats in 2024. While synthetic diamonds will continue in industrial and electronic use, their share in the gems and jew-

Sanctions since the Ukraine war against Russia's Alrosa, the world's largest diamond producer by volume, have also severely disrupted the supply chain of roughs, which has impacted India.

Reacting to the slowing market, mining companies have lowered investments in shoring up ageing mines and developing new ones. This means supply will be restricted in the long term as it takes 10 years for a new mine to reach commercial production.

However now, with synthetic diamonds receding, miners see a sliver of opportunity. At the recent Luanda conclave, De Beers says it wants to boost production, but pointed out that a rebound in demand calls initiatives such as the Luanda Accord. This is an agreement by diamond-producing countries and companies to create a collective marketing fund. So far, most African producers have committed to allocate 1% of their annual diamond sales revenue to promote natural diamonds.

India is not a miner of roughs. It imports them and then polishes over 90% of the world's diamonds by volume and is the largest exporter of cut and polished diamonds. In 2023-24, India exported approximately \$18.2 billion worth of diamonds. Theoretically, we should be the biggest gainers from the international slide in synthetic diamonds.

But there is a fly in the ointment. The Trump administration has imposed an over-50% tariff on most Indian goods. Since 45% of our polished diamonds and jewellery is destined for the US, the tariffs have been back-breaking. One analysis has projected a revenue drop of 28-30% in FY2026.

There is a silver lining though. The natural diamonds cutting and polishing industry is seeing a gradual rebound driven by a steady growth in domestic demand. This has somewhat offset the impact of the international slump. Industry pundits are saying the domestic natural diamond market has grown by up to 20% annually since 2022 and is projected to reach \$4 billion by 2030.

The local demand has been stoked by both strong efforts of local diamond units as well creative campaigns promoting natural diamonds by companies like De Beers. Meanwhile, trade negotiations have now reopened between India and the US. With all the pointers in the direction of India tapering off Russian crude imports, there is the possibility of some of the US tariffs being rolled back too.



MANDAR PARDIKAR

ellery — the lifestyle market, once projected at nearly \$26 billion is plummeting.

On the other hand, natural diamonds are facing social headwinds. A November 2024 study on the diamonds market by McKinsey & Co pointed to the increasing ethical consideration against mined diamonds often associated with exploitation and child labour. Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) factors have become more important to millennial and GenZ markets, who prefer buying branded jewellery that guarantee ESG compliance.

Natural diamond production worldwide that touched 129 million carats in 2024, is expected to dip to 125 million carats in calendar 2025. The slowing market has seen several major mines, including Australia's Argyle and key sites in Canada, depleted or are nearing the end of their operational lifespans.

NABARD Diwali Haat 2025 concludes on a grand note

The ten-day Diwali Haat 2025, supported by NABARD, successfully concluded on Saturday at the Emporia Complex, Connaught Place, with a vibrant valedictory ceremony that celebrated India's rich handicraft traditions and the spirit of rural entrepreneurship. The event was graced by eminent dignitaries including Rajesh Kumar, GM and Convenor, SLBC Delhi, and Punit Jain, Director, NIBSCOM. Artisans from across the country were felicitated with certificates of participation and appreciation. Artisans from Haryana, Maharashtra, UP and WB shared their experiences, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to showcase their products on such a platform.



Ministry of Ports to host maritime week in Mumbai from October 27 to 31

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is set to host India Maritime Week in Mumbai from October 27 to 31. The event, the largest maritime conclave in the world, will bring together over 100 maritime nations, 200 international experts, and 500 leading maritime industries, making it a premier platform for knowledge sharing, investment opportunities, and technology exchange in the maritime sector. Paradip Port will have a prominent presence at the event, signing Memorandums of Understanding worth ₹1.5-lakh crore across sectors including shipbuilding, ship repair, port modernisation, smart port initiatives, business development, and green hydrogen projects. Recently, Paradip Port was notified as a green hydrogen hub, becoming one of only three ports in India to receive this distinction.

Business & Beyond

SBI Life Insurance registers new business premium of ₹18,349 crore in Q2 FY26

SBI Life Insurance, one of the leading life insurers in the country registered a New Business Premium of ₹18,349 crore for the period ended on September 30, 2025 against ₹15,725 crore for the period ended September 30, 2024. Regular premium has increased by 10% over the corresponding period ended on September 30, 2024. Establishing a clear focus on protection, SBI Life's protection new business premium stood at ₹2,211 crores for the period ended September 30, 2025, marking a growth of 29%. Protection Individual new business premium stands at ₹371 crores for the period ended September 30, 2025. Individual New Business Premium stands at ₹12,175 crores with 6% growth over the corresponding period ended on September 30, 2024. SBI Life's profit after tax stands at ₹1,089 crores for the period ended September 30, 2025 with a growth of 4% over corresponding period ended on September 30, 2024.



BOB holds stress management event for branch heads in Odisha

Bank of Baroda's Holistic Well Being Programme Mastering Stress Management through Mindfulness and Meditation under Employee Assistance being conducted in Bhubaneswar for Bhubaneswar and Cuttack branch heads. In this session exclusive focus was given on managing stress and work life balance for employees. A short yoga session was also conducted under this event. The programme was a great success with all branch heads being benefitted from the session.

PNB offers online PPF account opening through its app

Punjab National Bank (PNB), India's leading public sector bank, is offering online digital PPF account opening facility through its PNB-One Mobile Banking App, Internet banking and PNB website. This initiative enables both existing PNB customers and new-to-bank customers to open PPF accounts entirely online through a seamless Do-It-Yourself (DIY) journey. The new digital PPF platform represents PNB's commitment to making long-term investment products accessible to every Indian. Available across multiple digital touchpoints, this facility eliminates the traditional barriers of branch visits and paperwork for account opening.



Despite their late bid to force the match to a tie, the Haryana Steelers lost to Jaipur Pink Panthers 27-30 in the first play-in of the Pro Kabaddi League on Saturday. Nitin Kumar and Aryan Kumar's performances proved to be decisive in Jaipur's 30-27 win. Meanwhile, Patna Pirates continued their historic run, beating U Mumba 40-31.

Sydney bows down to India's crown jewels Rohit & Kohli

Veterans delight fans with unbroken second-wicket stand of 168 off 170 in third ODI against Australia, helping team avoid series whitewash in the process

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Chennai

FOR over two hours on Saturday afternoon, the TV sets in a vast number of households across India had the same channel on. The remote was locked away just in case somebody dared change the channel. A few timezones away in Sydney, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were gradually turning the clock back to a time when the cricketing world revolved around these old dogs, the two dads who had come to represent the two lungs of Indian cricket.

At the same ground in 2008, one Indian fan had come prepared with a famous banner: "Commit all your crimes," it began. "when Sachin is bat-

ting. They will go unnoticed for even the lord is busy watching him."

On Saturday, even the ones committing the crimes would have tuned in because how could one not? In isolation, the third match of a three-match series with the series already decided generally means there's nothing but some pride to play for. Like some extras playing with cards at the poker table after the money has been locked away for the night.

But Saturday wasn't going to be that way. There were enough stakes in this supposed 'dead rubber'. Would Kohli get off nought? What would Sharma conjure up after a streaky 50 second time out? Would this be the pair's last-ever ODI? After over 575 ODIs, 24000 runs and



Rohit Sharma (L) and Virat Kohli celebrate after India's win on Saturday | **PHOTOGRAPH BY**

80 100s between them, surely this wouldn't be it? Would the light that has burned inside their collective bellies for so long flicker long enough for their employers to give all six remaining ODIs remaining this season? Would the joie de vivre and the intensity that

they showed for so long be on display to give their fans something to hang on to in the December first week of their careers?

Both of them answered yes in a manner that was so them. Both of them, in an unbroken second wicket stand worth 168

off 170, showed why they have been so successful in this format for so long. The ticker-tape fell down to coronate Australia's 2-1 series win but it really did feel like an evening that belonged to the two veterans of Indian cricket.

Chasing a below 237, the pair got together after Shubman Gill's dismissal in the 11th over. Kohli celebrated ever so quietly after opening his account for the first time this series. He almost got himself into a tangle when cutting Adam Zampa in the air through backward point. On another day, it may have brought about a wicket. On Saturday, though, he wasn't going to be denied. He refused and his bellwether shot helped him along the way. The single to all sides of the wicket.

In all, there were 36 ones and five doubles. When hunting a target, it's what he has done for a very long time.

Play the situation, cut undue risks, pace the innings and never let the asking rate balloon to an unmanageable rate.

If Kohli did what he has always done, Sharma, in his own way, did what he has always done. Go aerial, try to get ahead of the equation and bring out the sweep to spin. If he displayed ring rust in each of the first two games, this was a far more assured innings from the opener. In the process, he brought up yet another ODI 100 — his 33rd — in the format.

After the match, they were both summoned for an in-ground interview with the broadcaster and what they said

was very revealing. Sharma said they wanted to 'start fresh' when they landed in Perth for the start of the series. "... whenever you get an opportunity to play, you've got to come and start fresh, and that's what we did. When we arrived in Perth, forget what has happened in the last 15-17 years, wanted to start fresh," the 38-year-old said. When asked if the 'two old dogs still had sting in the tail', Sharma said: "looks like it, yes."

Kohli managed to see the lighter side of things when he said he was relieved to make a run. "Good to be out of the pond, honestly," the 36-year-old said. **Brief scores:** Oz 236 in 46.4 ovs (Renshaw 56, Marsh 41; Rana 4/39) **lost to** India 237/1 in 38.3 ovs (Rohit 121 n.o., Kohli 74 n.o.) **Fullstory:** newindianexpress.com

SHARP REACTION

BCCI SECY SAIKIA SLAMS INDORE INCIDENT

GOMESH S @ Navi Mumbai

IN a shocking incident, two Australian players, who are taking part in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, were allegedly molested in Indore on Thursday. A motorcyclist, who was later identified as Aqeel Khan and was arrested, allegedly approached the two players and touched them inappropriately while the players were walking to a cafe on Khajrana Road in Indore.

Soon after the incident, the two players informed the security officers who arrived on the scene. Danny Simmons, the Australian team's security manager, filed a complaint at the MIG police station on Thursday evening. With a bystander noting down the vehicle number, Indore police arrested the accused, Aqeel Khan, who was on a bike during the incident.

Cricket Australia confirmed the incident in a statement on Saturday. "Cricket Australia can confirm two members of the Australian Women's Team were approached and touched inappropriately by a motorcyclist while walking to a cafe in Indore.



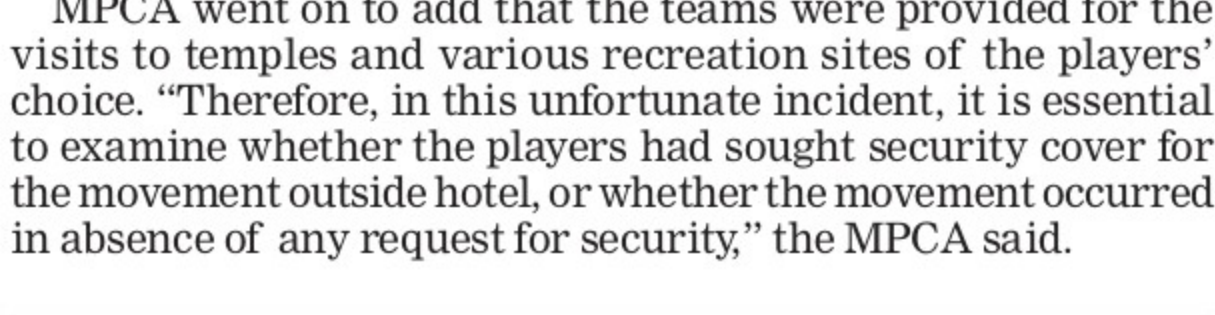
Devajit Saikia, BCCI secretary

The matter was reported by team security to police, who are handling the matter," CA said in a statement.

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia condemned the incident and said that it should not have happened. "It is a very condemnable but stray incident. India is known for its hospitality and care. We have zero tolerance for such incidents. We appreciate the State Police (Madhya Pradesh) for their prompt action to nab the culprit. Let the law take its course to punish the culprit. We assure to revisit our safety protocols if required to further tighten the security," he said. "In spite of our best efforts to have security, somehow this happened and therefore we fully condemn it. We hope this kind of incident should not occur in our country and state."

Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association apologised to the Australian team in a statement. "As the host, MPCA extends sincere apologies to the Australian Women's team for this deeply distressing and unfortunate incident while in our city known for safety, grace, and hospitality," MPCA statement read. "No woman should ever have to endure such trauma, and our thoughts and support are with those impacted by this distressing incident. This unfortunate event has deeply affected everyone from MPCA who cherishes the values of respect, safety, and dignity of women," it added.

MPCA went on to add that the teams were provided for the visits to temples and various recreation sites of the players' choice. "Therefore, in this unfortunate incident, it is essential to examine whether the players had sought security cover for the movement outside hotel, or whether the movement occurred in absence of any request for security," the MPCA said.



Sunderland players celebrate their win over Chelsea on Saturday | **AP**



Sunderland stun Chelsea, Man Utd beat Brighton

AGENCIES @ London

CHEMSDINE Talbi's stoppage-time winner helped Sunderland stun Chelsea, while Newcastle also struck late to beat Fulham 2-1 in the Premier League on Saturday. Man United, meanwhile, kept up their good run by beating Brighton 4-2 at Old Trafford. Bryan Mbuemo starred with two goals for the Red Devils. Mathues Cunha also scored.

Earlier, Chelsea looked like they would be the side to go second in the table when Ale-

jandro Garnacho drilled in his first goal for the club after just four minutes. However, Sunderland levelled on 22 minutes when Wilson Isidor bundled in from close range after Chelsea failed to clear a long throw-in.

Sunderland then landed the sucker punch on the counter-attack in the 93rd minute when Brian Brobbey set up Talbi to curl perfectly into the bottom corner.

Results: Chelsea 1-2 Sunderland; Man Utd 4-2 Brighton; Newcastle Utd 2-1 Fulham; Leeds 2-1 West Ham United.

ICC Women's C'ship's effect on the lesser teams

GOMESH S @ Navi Mumbai

WHEN Bangladesh women were granted ODI status by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on November 26, 2011, it was a recognition of the efforts put in by the players and their consistent performances. However, that did not automatically translate into more matches and exposure.

From 2011 to the 2022 ODI World Cup in New Zealand, they got to play only 42 games, which pales in comparison to the top eight teams. Five of them, including India, had played more than 100 ODIs, and the other three had over 70. It all changed when they qualified for the ICC Women's Championship. It was based on rankings, as the 2021 World Cup Qualifiers were cancelled midway due to COVID.

Inducted in 2014 to guarantee

more bilateral matches with added context, the ICC Women's Championship ensures each team plays at least 24 games in a World Cup cycle. It is also used as a pathway for teams to directly qualify for the blue-rib and event. The 2014-17 event featured eight teams, with three directly qualifying for the WC in England. In 2017-21, the top four and hosts New Zealand qualified from the eight before ICC increased the number of teams to ten, including Bangladesh, who also qualified for the WC based on rankings ahead of Sri Lanka, and Ireland.

While Australia have won every single edition since its inception, the Championship has made a drastic difference for the two lower-ranked teams. Since March 2022, Bangladesh have played almost as many ODIs as they did between 2011-2021 — 41 (till Saturday). They



Bangladesh women's cricket team is one of the beneficiaries | **AP**

toured New Zealand for the first time ever in 2022, thanks to the Future Tours Programme (FTP), which ensures that the bigger boards host the teams who are striving for opportuni-

ties. And no one knows it better than Bangladesh batter Fargana Hoque Pinky. "This is very important because the points you get here will help you qualify for World Cups directly," Pinky told this daily. Qualifying for the 2022 WC in New Zealand became an eye-opener for her and the team, as they had never experienced it before — to play in an ODI multi-nation tournament against top teams.

During the 2022-25 cycle, Bangladesh played 28 games in comparison to the 11 bilaterals they played between 2017-21. "These 25-26 matches we played gave us a huge experience. I think in our next cycle, we will start from India, our first match (2025-29). It gives us a chance to show the world how far we have come, the Bangladesh team. When FTP matches come along, everyone is interested because of the WC quali-

fication. Everyone wants to give their best. Going forward, it will do a lot of good for the team," Pinky says with hope, talking about the 27 bilateral matches they will play till the 2029 World Cup.

During the upcoming cycle, they will get to play bilaterals in England and Australia for the first time. And it is not just Bangladesh and Ireland, last year, the ICC also included Zimbabwe with the Women's Championship expanding to 11 teams. The 2029 World Cup will also see the number of teams increase to ten from the current eight.

At a time when the women's game is seeing a rapid rise, the expansion of the Championship and its existence are pivotal to the growth of the sport in countries that do not have the finances of the top teams. The road ahead looks greener and brighter.

Dominant Aus win vs SA, to face India in semifinals

AGENCIES @ Indore

LEG-SPINNER Alana King's spellbinding wizardry formed the cornerstone of Australia's seven-wicket triumph over South Africa as the holders concluded the Women's World Cup league stage on top of the table on Saturday. As a result, Australia will face hosts India in the semifinals at Navi Mumbai on Thursday.

King's (7/18 in 7 ovs) artistry was on full display as she ran through South Africa's batting line-up with her maiden seven-wicket haul to bowl them



Alana King (R) scalped seven wickets against South Africa on Saturday | **AP**

out for 97 in 24 overs. The Australian batters then chased the target with 199 balls to spare. **Brief scores:** SA: 97 in 24 ovs (Wolvaardt 31; King 7/18) **lost to** AUS 98/3 in 16.5 ovs (Mooney 42).

India seek fine-tuning

With Kaur & Co taking on B'desh, a look...

HARLEEN EXPECTED TO CONTINUE

With four players yet to get a game and Harleen Deol being among those who trained on optional day, it seems likely that the No 3 will continue to be a part of the XI. Her role will likely depend on the match situation rather than a fixed position, especially in the knockouts.

PRIZE MONEY THE DIFFERENCE

Bangladesh are last in the table and this match doesn't affect the top four. However, for Nigar Sultana & Co it matters as the difference between 7-8th and 5-6th is 420K USD. If they beat India and New Zealand lose to England, they can walk away with 700K USD.

INDIA VS BANGLADESH, NAVI MUMBAI
LIVE ON STAR SPORTS AND JIHOTSTAR, 3 PM

NZ look for good finish

Already out of WC, White Ferns face England. A look...

FAREWELL FOR SOPHIE

This will be the last ODI for Sophie Devine while representing New Zealand. The captain had announced that she would be retiring by the end of the World Cup and after 19 years of international cricket, the veteran will hang her boot in the 50-over format. NZ would be hoping to give her a happy farewell.



ENGLAND SEEK MOMENTUM

After losing to Australia, England would want to beat New Zealand going into the first semifinal which they are scheduled to play in Guwahati on Wednesday. They will be up against South Africa in the semifinals and will be hoping to secure a spot in the final for the third consecutive time.

ENGLAND VS NEW ZEALAND, VISAKHAPATNAM
LIVE ON STAR SPORTS AND JIHOTSTAR 11 AM

Karun leads Karnataka fightback versus Goa

ENS/AGENCIES @ Shivamogga

ARJUN Tendulkar (3/47) scalped three wickets for Goa before Karun Nair (86 batting) rescued Karnataka to 222/5 on Day 1 in a elite-group B encounter of Ranji Trophy on Saturday. Former Karnataka pacer V Koushik (2/24) also chipped in with two wickets for the visitors. From 65/4, Nair came up with a timely half-century.

Rahul powers Hyderabad

PUDUCHERRY: Hyderabad skipper Rahul Singh Gahlaut (144 batting) notched up a ton against Pondicherry in a Group D tie. The visitors were at 255/1 after stumps on Day 1.

Bright start for Delhi

NEW DELHI: Opener Sanat Sangwan (79), Arpit Rana (64) and vice-captain Yash Dhull (61) scored fifties but failed to convert them into centuries as hosts Delhi ended Day 1 against Himachal Pradesh on 306/4 in



Delhi's Yash Dhull celebrates after scoring a half-century | **SAVANTAN GHOSH**

another Group D clash.

Vimal, Pradosh star with tons

BENGALURU: After their inning loss to Jharkhand in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu are pursuing maximum points against Nagaland in another

Group A tie. They ended Day 1 with a score of 399/2. Opener Vimal Khumar (189) cracked a ton, while Pradosh Ranjan Paul (156 batting) looks set for a memorable knock.

Odisha dismissed for 243

KANPUR: Shivam Sharma (3/65) and Vipraj Nigam (2/39) led the bowling attack for Uttar Pradesh as they toppled Odisha out for 243 in a Elite - Group A fixture. For the visitors, Govinda Poddar (64) and Sambit S Baral (59 n.o.) scored fifties.

Pacer Saiteja shines

VIZIANAGARAM: Pacer K Saiteja (4/28) starred with a

four-wicket haul against Baroda in another Group A tie. Vishnu Solanki (99 batting) and Atith Sheth (65 batting) revived the visitors.

Harnoor rescues Punjab

NEW CHANDIGARH: Despite wickets of Prabhshimran Singh, captain Naman Dhir and Ramandeep Singh, Punjab opener Harnoor Singh cracked a patient ton against Kerala in another Group B tie. On a track that is degrading, the hosts managed to end Day 1 at 240/6. For the 2024/25 runners-up, Baba Aparajith (2/48), Basil NP (2/44) and Ankit Sharma (2/63) picked up two wickets each.

Group D: Delhi: 306/4 (Arpit Rana 64, Sanat Sangwan 79, Yash Dhull 61; Divesh Sharma 2/42) vs HP; Hyderabad 255/1 in 70 ovs (Rahul Singh 114 batting, Himajeta K 62 batting) vs Pondicherry; Group A: TN : 399/2 in 90 ovs (Vimal Khumar 189, Pradosh Ranjan Paul 156 batting) vs Nagaland; Baroda: 230/6 in 79 ovs (Vishnu Solanki 99 not out; K Saiteja 4/28) vs Andhra; Odisha: 243 in 77.1 ovs (Govinda Poddar 64, Sambit Baral 59 not out; Shivam Sharma 3/65) vs UP: 17/0 in 7 ovs. Group B: Karnataka 222/5 in 69 ovs (Karun Nair 86 batting; Arjun Tendulkar 3/47) vs Goa; Punjab 240/6 in 87 ovs (Harnoor Singh 126 batting; Basil NP 2/44) vs Kerala.
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EXPRESS READ

Men's HIL to begin on Jan 3 next year

CHENNAI: Season two of the revived men's Hockey India League will commence in Chennai on January 3 with a clash between Tamil Nadu Dragons and Hyderabad Toofans, the organisers announced on Saturday. Matches of the opening leg will take place at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium from January 3-9.

Hansika, Sarika settle for silver medals

NOVI SAD (SERBIA): Hansika Lamba and Sarika Malik signed off with silver at the U-23 World Wrestling Championships here on Saturday. Hansika (53 kg) lost 0-4 to Japan's Haruna Morikawa. Sarika, meanwhile was beaten 1-2 by Ruka Natami. In the men's freestyle, Pravinder (74kg) lost his bronze play-off.



The I-T sector is navigating a perfect storm — subdued global tech spending and the disruptive momentum of AI. The old model of tying revenue growth to headcount expansion is dead. The new mantra: doing more with less

WORLD WITHOUT JOBS, THANKS TO AUTOMATION

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

AI and robots will replace all jobs. Working will be optional — like growing your own vegetables instead of buying them from the store.” This was how the world’s foremost innovator and entrepreneur, Elon Musk, reacted to a New York Times story on Amazon — the second-largest employer in the US, with over 1.2 million employees — which is quietly working to replace almost half of its workforce with robots.

The NYT story has dropped the ‘automation bomb’, which only a few years ago sounded like another Hollywood sci-fi plot. It no longer is, if you go by Amazon’s plan to automate 75% of its operations.

According to the report, Amazon’s robotics team plans to replace more than 600,000 jobs with robots. The calculus is purely economic: achieving this could save 30 cents on every processed and delivered item. Automation would also help the company avoid hiring 160,000 US employees by the end of 2027, resulting in savings of about \$12.5 billion over the next two years.

This is not a distant vision — its testing ground is in Shreveport, Louisiana, where a warehouse swarming with a thousand robots operates with 25% fewer humans. The company’s strategy involves drastically slowing hiring and reducing its workforce through attrition, with the explicit goal of “flattening Amazon’s hiring curve over the next 10 years”.

The NYT report quoted Daron Acemoglu, MIT professor and Nobel laureate in economic sciences, as saying: “Nobody else has the same incentive as Amazon to find the way to automate... Once they work out how to do this profitably, it will spread to others too.”

Operations in India, where labour remains cheaper than robots, are untouched by this development — at least for now.

Walmart, another retail behemoth, is following suit. The company is aggressively automating its supply chain, with over half its distribution centres currently undergoing upgrades. By the end of this year, Walmart expects 65% of its stores to be serviced by these high-tech hubs.

The reach of this technological wave extends far beyond the warehouse floor. Industrial shop floors are now testing the next level of automation, replacing task-specific robots with humanoids that — unlike traditional ro-

bots — “hold the promise of broad adaptability across a wide range of functions”, according to a McKinsey report. Automotive giants like BMW, Mercedes-Benz, and Tesla are already experimenting with humanoid-run shop floors.

The corporate office, once the bastion of human-centric knowledge work, is now a primary target for AI-driven efficiency. McKinsey’s analysis shows the consumer sector is particularly ripe for disruption. By 2035, technology — from basic automation to generative AI — could affect up to 55% of workers’ current activities, “from the front line up through the C-suite”.

Indian fallout

The Indian IT sector — one of the country’s biggest job creators over the past three decades — is also realigning its operations and workforce to adapt to disruptive technologies such as AI and machine learning (ML). The massive job cuts at TCS are being attributed to its need to make itself “future-ready” for an AI-led era. It is no longer mere speculation that AI can perform the work of coders and developers.

Technology giant IBM recently announced the development of ‘Bob’ — a personified AI agent that supports the full lifecycle of application development, from coding to deployment.

“It’s part of our push to integrate agentic AI into development workflows,” says Hans Dekkers, General Manager, IBM Asia Pacific. “We currently have 8,000 IBM developers actively using Bob internally.” He, however, reiterates that these personified developers are meant to support human developers, not replace them.

Nobody wants to talk about job losses

While AI and automation promise greater productivity and efficiency, few in the corporate world are willing to openly acknowledge the massive workforce displacement they entail.

The India head of a top global technology company, when asked about potential job losses due to AI and large-scale automation, scoffed at the question. “We must move beyond talking about replacement of jobs, and instead speak about the benefits automation and AI entail,” he said.

The NYT story on Amazon explains how the retail giant is using “smart” terminology to avoid words like automation and AI. Instead, it has instructed its leadership to use alternatives such as advanced technology and cobot

Impact will vary by function

MCKINSEY’S research suggests the impact will vary by function. Manufacturing and supply chain roles, characterised by repetitive, centralised tasks, could see automation levels of around 40% in the next five years. Customer-facing roles like sales may see lower levels (around 25%) but will still be transformed by process-streamlining tools. Central corporate functions such as HR and finance are poised for automation levels of around 35%, potentially leading to leaner, project-based operating models.

(collaborative robot). Manufacturing companies, on the other hand, prefer euphemisms like smart manufacturing or Industry 4.0 to sidestep the stigma associated with automation — which immediately evokes fears of mass layoffs. Reskilling has become the industry’s favourite refrain, allowing leaders to avoid the uncomfortable discussion of job losses. Very few, like Elon Musk, have been candid in admitting that jobs will indeed be sacrificed on the altar of automation.

The Economic Survey 2024-25, released in January this year, raised similar concerns. “With increasing adoption of AI across various sectors, employees are concerned about its effects on the job market,” the report noted, adding that anxieties about AI’s impact remain high in India.

“As India’s workforce in low-skill and low-value-added services remains vulnerable to AI, robust enabling institutions are essential to help transition workers to medium- and high-skilled jobs, where AI can augment their efforts rather than replace them,” the Survey said. The replacement of jobs by AI and robots still largely depends on cost-effectiveness. “For humanoids to compete with human la-

bour across mainstream sectors, product costs must fall into the \$20,000-\$50,000 range per unit (from the existing \$150,000-\$500,000); potentially greater reductions may be necessary for humanoids in consumer-facing environments such as homes, retail, and hospitality,” says McKinsey.

In India, however, it is AI — more than robots or humanoids — that poses the immediate threat.

That is why Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran, in the Economic Survey 2023-24, highlighted AI’s emergence as casting “a huge pall of uncertainty” over workers across all skill levels — one of the three key challenges to India’s growth. It remains so, as “the social impact of AI through labour market disruptions and displacement is barely understood.”

Nowhere is this shift more evident than in India’s \$250-billion IT services industry. Long the engine of global tech outsourcing, the sector is navigating a perfect storm — subdued global tech spending and the disruptive momentum of AI. The old model, where revenue growth was directly tied to headcount expansion, is being dismantled. The new mantra: doing more with less.

Responsible AI

There has been a growing call for responsible deployment of AI. The CEA last year warned that “deployment of AI could have a deleterious impact on jobs.”

Former Managing Director of Nestlé India, Suresh Narayanan, said his company has been “selective” in its use of AI and is developing use cases across planning, logistics, automation, and manufacturing excellence. “These use cases will be gradually deployed where there’s a direct impact on business growth, productivity, or cost. We are not taking a random approach to automation. Instead, we follow a roadmap — especially for forecasting and supply chain models,” he told this newspaper.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO), in one of its reports, notes that achieving positive and inclusive labour market outcomes — including potential productivity gains — depends on responsible AI innovation and adoption.

While reskilling is widely touted as the solution to the threat of automation, the ILO highlights the challenges of imparting such skills. It points out that machine learning and AI — alongside software, technical, and managerial skills — are among the most complex and high-value skill sets. “Importantly, they are typically built upon a foundation of general computer skills, core cognitive and sophisticated cognitive skills, and in some instances also finger dexterity skills,” the report states.

Musk, however, has proposed a more radical solution to the prospect of mass job losses due to automation: governments should support a large section of society through Universal Basic Income.

Social impact of AI through labour market disruptions and displacement is barely understood

— V Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Adviser

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

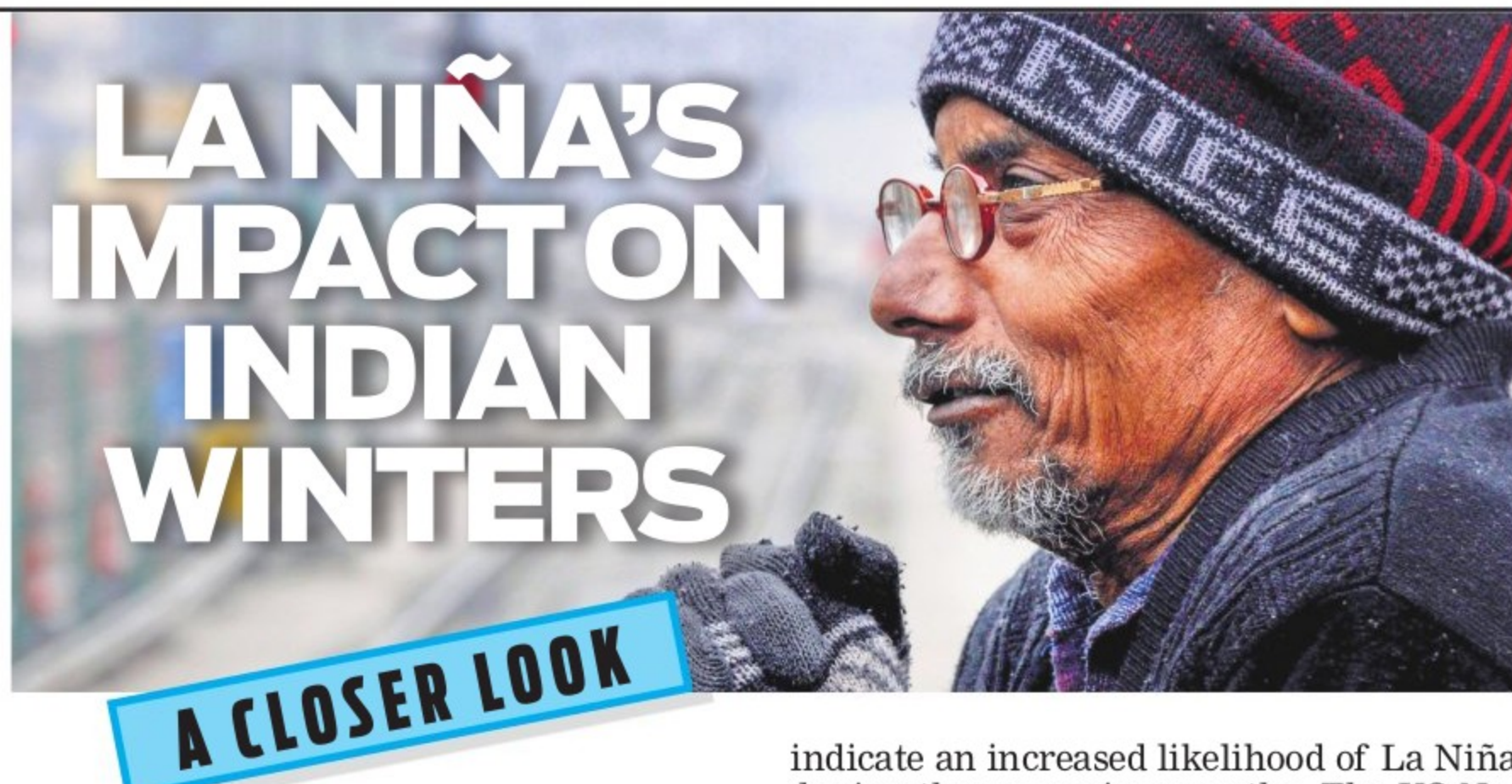
AS Northwest India entered October, coinciding with the annual festive season of Dussehra, people began to feel a chill in the air, especially at night. Many started reducing their fan speeds and wrapping themselves in sheets. This change in temperature reminded some of October 2020 when Delhi experienced its coldest month since 1962, with a mean minimum temperature of 17.2°C.

In contrast to the warmest October recorded by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) last year, this year’s unusual cold in October suggests a potentially colder winter ahead, one of the coldest in decades. This October, weather scientists observed that Delhi’s maximum temperatures have mostly been lower than normal, while minimum temperatures have remained above average.

In the second week of the month, the season’s first spell of western disturbance impacted the Northwest region, resulting in heavy snowfall in the higher reaches of the Himalayas including Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Cold winds sweeping across the plains caused both maximum and minimum temperatures to drop to record lows for a week. The maximum temperatures dipped to the range of 26°C to 30°C, while minimum temperatures ranged from 18°C to 19°C for over 10 days, in contrast to the average mean maximum temperature of 31°C to 33°C and an average mean minimum temperature of 19°C to 22°C during October.

The sudden and consistent drop in temperatures led to concerns about a colder winter arriving alongside heightened air pollution levels in Northern India, particularly in the Indo-Gangetic plain.

People’s apprehensions are not without reason. Global meteorological agencies, including the IMD, have warned of a higher likelihood of a potential La Niña event, characterised by



LA NIÑA'S IMPACT ON INDIAN WINTERS

A CLOSER LOOK

cooler-than-average temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean region. This potential La Niña could result in colder and more severe winters for northern India, prolonging cold spells.

Scientists say La Niña enhances the influence of western disturbances and westerly winds over North India. Moreover, colder air masses from higher latitudes like Siberia and Central Asia penetrate further south into northern India due to a north-south trough in the upper atmosphere, the Himalayan region is expected to experience heavier snowfall. This could lead to disruptive cold winds affecting the daily lives of millions.

Besides, La Niña is also associated with a wetter-than-normal northeast monsoon season, particularly affecting Tamil Nadu, Kerala and coastal Andhra Pradesh, while central India may experience drier conditions.

In its latest bulletin, the IMD declared a higher possibility of La Niña conditions this coming winter. It reported the presence of neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions over the equatorial Pacific region and noted that predictions from its model, Monsoon Mission Climate Forecast System (MMCFS) and other global climate models

indicate an increased likelihood of La Niña during the upcoming months. The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), have already announced the return of La Niña in September 2025. However, the European Copernicus Climate Service has predicted weaker La Niña conditions, which may lead to a warmer winter or conditions similar to previous years.

What is La Niña?

La Niña is a cooler phase of the broader El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), a natural climate phenomenon. The ENSO has three phases: El Niño, Neutral, and La Niña. The natural cycle swings between warmer and cooler seawater in a region along the equator in the tropical Pacific Ocean. The natural phenomenon occurs periodically every two to seven years, causing a ripple effect on the global climate, increasing the chance of floods, excess rain, drought, snowfall and other chaotic weather conditions. It affects the Indian monsoon and winter.

1 El Niño — During El Niño, warm surface waters shift toward the central/eastern tropical Pacific, which alters large-

scale air circulation. This shift causes lesser rainfall in areas that receive normal rainfall, and some areas often get drier or wetter. For instance, it causes heavier rainfall and flooding in South American Countries like Peru, Ecuador while India and Southeast Asia and Australia tend to get weaker monsoon rainfall, which increases the chance of drought and water shortages. In Africa, it causes wetter East Africa while drier Southern Africa.

2 La Niña — La Niña is the opposite of the El Niño phenomenon. The ocean surface in the central/eastern tropical Pacific is cooler than normal, so its impact is quite different from El Niño. It causes essentially above-normal rainfall, increased flooding risk, especially in the Indian subcontinent and Australia, wetter in Southern Africa and drier in East Africa and South American countries like Peru and Ecuador.

3 Neutral ENSO — This is the “baseline” or “normal” state of the tropical Pacific. Trade winds blow east to west across the equatorial Pacific. In this process, warm water is pushed towards the western Pacific coasts, such as Indonesia and Australia, while cooler water is pushed towards the eastern Pacific coast of South America, maintaining atmospheric balance. In this phase, globally weather patterns are relatively ‘normal’ for the region, and no extreme weather events generally take place.

However, WMO terms the increasing frequency of El Niño and La Niña due to climate change. It states that naturally occurring climate events, such as La Niña and El Niño, occur within the broader context of human-induced climate change. It is increasing global temperatures, exacerbating extreme weather, and impacting seasonal rainfall and temperature patterns.

The recent ‘warm blob’ phenomenon in the North Pacific region — extending from the east coast of Asia to the west coast of North America — is a case in point. The region registered record warming in the past decade

but 2025 is markedly higher than recent years between July and September. Scientists think the extra heat, called the ‘warm blob’, may have the opposite effect in the UK and Europe, possibly leading to a colder winter.

La Niña does not always bring cold winters

It would be simplistic to expect La Niña years to automatically produce colder winters. Recent evidence indicates otherwise. For instance, winters in 2023 and 2024 were warmer, despite both being La Niña or La Niña-affected years. The overall temperature anomalies across the country were positive. In 2024, the mean temperature anomaly for the Indian winter (January–February) was +0.37°C, and in 2023, it was +0.83°C. Even in 2022, which was a La Niña year, the anomaly was close to normal at -0.04°C nationally.

A senior scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) emphasized the need to re-evaluate recent evidence before simplifying the connection between La Niña and harsher winters. “From 2020 to 2024, despite an extended La Niña phase (September 2020 to March 2023, and again in winter 2024), most parts of India experienced above-normal winter temperatures. Warmer conditions were noted during January–February 2021, October–December 2021 and 2022, and January–February 2023,” said the scientist.

Years such as 2005, 2007, 2010, 2011, and 2012 showed a direct correlation with La Niña influence, as temperatures dropped further below the average from 1991 to 2020. However, in years like 1995, 1998, 1991, 1999, 2000, 2010, and during recent years such as 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024, the winter temperatures were hardly affected by La Niña, instead showing a positive anomaly.

“In recent years, there has been no direct connection between harsher winters and La Niña, largely due to India’s geographical features, such as the Himalayas, which block much of the polar winds,” said Dr O P Sreejith, Scientist and Head of the Climate Monitoring and Prediction Group at IMD.